



Window on Jordan

Al Qadissieh takes the title!

By John Fenn

Star Staff Writer

IF YOU fainted on seeing the above headline then I apologize, because all I wanted was to attract your attention to this article; on Jordan's love affair with football, and the apparent lack of success on the international scene.

The passion for the "world's favorite game" is beyond doubt—a walk around Sports City on the weekend will verify this fact. You will see hundreds of people playing the game, and every square-inch available is utilized.

This manifests itself in the average Jordanian football fan's knowledge of the game, especially on

the European Leagues, which is helped by the excellent coverage in the press and on television. Familiarity with foreign football players is also high. Whenever I am about town, I am often greeted with inquisitive remarks like Bartz? Le Boeuf? or Ronaldo? Much to my regret, they are not talking about my football prowess, but rather the one factor we all have in common—the 'follicly-challenged' appearance.

The question I would like to ask is why hasn't the popularity for the game of football in the Kingdom, transferred itself to success on the pitch for the national team? After all, in football terms, size really doesn't matter. Take a look at Scotland for

instance; a nation of five million people has seen its national team qualify for four of the last five World Cup tournaments. In this year's World Cup, do you remember which team finished in third place? That's right, the mighty nation of Croatia.

I believe that the main problem facing Jordanian football showed itself during last week's well publicized dispute with the Jordan Premier League; namely to much power resting with big clubs. The mayhem following the 25 October match between Al Faisali and Al Qadissieh was "pythonesque" in its absurdity.

Continued on page 3



The Star

Jordan's political, economic and cultural weekly

Le Jourdain
Supplément en français du Star

● Crise de l'eau:
l'accusation

● L'école du silence

Pages 12 - 13

● A view from Poland

page 7

● Books galore

page 8

● Gourmet

page 9

● JR's 'Listeners Choice'

page 16

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اسبوعية سياسية مستقلة

Hamas subdued for the moment

By Ibtisam Awadat

Star Staff Writer

THE UNREST in the West Bank and Gaza Strip is widely expected to continue following the signature of the Wye Plan. President of the Palestine National Authority (PNA), Yasser Arafat, visited Ramallah only one day after he gave orders to launch a major offensive against the Islamic resistance movement, Hamas.

By the second day of the campaign, over 100 Hamas members were arrested in Gaza (including the four main leaders of the organization), and abuse was widely reported by news agencies.

In addition, the spiritual leader of Hamas, Ahmad Yassin, was placed under house arrest in Gaza, and had his house searched by the PNA police, Yassin, who established the military arm of the Muslim Brotherhood movement in Palestine was arrested in 1989 and



Sheikh Ahmed Yassin

accused of inciting violence. He was sentenced by an Israeli court to life imprisonment in 1991.

The wheelchair-bound leader was released from prison in 1997, after His Majesty King Hussein's personal intervention, following the failed Israeli assassination attempt on Khalid Mishal, Amman's politburo chief.

The PNA seems determined to honor its accord commitments, at the expense of the Palestinian opposition forces.

"We should remember that the articles of Wye River accord only enhance the security issue for Israel," said Salem Al Nahhas, general secretary at the Jordan People's Democratic Party. "The most dangerous article in the accord was the declaration to begin negotiations on the final stage agreement," Nahhas continued, "and that means the elimination of the Palestinian question."

The PNA claims its actions against Hamas are just "combating terrorism," but the reality is that it's an Israeli condition from the Wye agreement. The PNA, observers believe wants to crack down on Hamas for the sake of Israeli security.

Meanwhile, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu phoned Arafat, and informed him of the decision by the Likud government to delay the

implementation of the Wye accord for another 10 days, which the Palestinian President accepted.

Meanwhile, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, in an interview with Israeli Television declared that Hamas has no headquarters, arms or camps in Jordan, although there are some individuals who are ideologically affiliated to the movement.

However, the Islamic newspaper *Al Sabeel*, in the last issue published by the Muslim Brotherhood Movement, reported that Khalid Mishal was prevented from leaving Jordan, on his way to Damascus to participate in a meeting to discuss the Wye Plan. *Al Sabeel* continued to say that "The Jordanian apparatus also refused the departure of Mohammad Nazzari, a mem-

ber of the Hamas' political bureau, who was on his way to participate in a political program in Qatar."

The government's response to these accusations came through the Minister of Information, Nasser Judeh, who said that, "Mishal can travel wherever he wants, and what really happened was that he refused to travel as a normal citizen. He refused a search of his luggage, which is a regular measure, and so was consequently returned to Amman." Judeh added that, "No one in Jordan is prevented from making statements to the press, but what we refuse to accept is to be seen to be a base for statements which urge and incite violence against others." Concerning the news reports that

Continued on page 2

Al Jazirah office in Amman closed down

AMMAN (Star)—Director-General of the Press and Publication Dept (PDD),

its live satellite broadcasts. The latest incident, which broke the camel's back so to speak, was during Tuesday's *Al Itijah Al Mu'ak* program, when anchorman Faisal Qassem invited two politicians to speak on the 4th anniversary of the Jordan-Israeli Peace Treaty signed on 26 October 1994.



Qassem

Mr Qattani said that the decision of the PDD is in line with article 9 of the Press and Publication Law, which governs the actions of reporters from the foreign media.

In this respect it was decided to close the office, because its reporters perpetually abused the image of Jordan, its people and their political system during

time that Al Jazirah aired news criticizing Jordan.

Palestinians wait anxiously for Wye deal implementation

Star Staff Writer and news agency dispatches

THE INTERIM Israeli-Palestinian peace accord has reached its first pitfall last week. The snare was apparent on the Israeli side when Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu declared his intentions to postpone the weekly scheduled meeting of his cabinet until Palestinians fulfill their obligations regarding the security plan. He said that the cabinet wouldn't be convened because a 'key element' was missing from the plan, which was handed to the CIA on the scheduled date of 2 November.

Although Netanyahu didn't specify the missing information, political analysts defined it as one of combating terrorist organizations and their infrastructure.

Netanyahu even went far on Tuesday by saying that the Palestinian Authority must comply with their commitments and arrest what they termed as 30 fugitives as part of a promised crackdown against the Islamic militants.

What seems certain at the moment is that the implementation of the accord is heading towards a rocky deadline, since neither side shows trust in the other.

Israel asked the United States to give her a couple of days more before implementing the US-brokered agreement. This request came at a time when the Israeli cabinet is still undecided on whether to approve or oppose the accord. The outcome of the cabinet vote, whenever it occurs, is also unclear.

The Israeli cabinet passed a Knesset vote on the new budget with the help of the Arab Israeli members who voted in favor of Netanyahu's government, surprising most of the Likud Party members.

Analysts say that this step was helpful for both the Israelis and the Palestinians who say that Netanyahu must remain in office to implement the peace accord.

The same analysts believe that some kind of a deal may be achieved between Arab Israeli Knesset members and Netanyahu's government if the latter promises to fulfill his commitments towards the Palestinian Authority.

Observers predict that the Wye deal will be approved by the 18-member Israeli cabinet, but just by a frac-

tion. However, at least three ministers have already shown their disapproval of the accord whilst six others say they are still undecided.

The scheduled 2 November date passed relatively quietly despite the previous week's attempt by a Hamas suicide bomber on an Israeli school bus in the Gaza Strip. One Israeli soldier was killed and two others injured. Soon after, the Palestinians showed compliance to their obligations. Palestinian President Yasser Arafat ordered to put the leader of the Islamic militant movement Hamas Sheikh Ahmed Yassin under house arrest. Hundreds of Hamas activists were also detained after the incident.

The response came hours after news mentioned that some individuals in the armed wing of Hamas threatened to retaliate against President Arafat's police forces for what they called, "their betrayal of the Palestinian people."

A top Palestinian security official echoed President Arafat's orders to cripple Hamas. "The interrogation will determine who will be released, who will stay in prison and who else will be arrested," Rashid Abu Shubak, deputy chief of Arafat's preventive security force told reporters.

Yayeh Abdel Rahim, secretary general of the Palestinian cabinet, accused the hardliners in Iran of supporting and funding Hamas militants. "The threat was part of Tehran's plans to sabotage the implementation of the land-for-peace agreement," he said.

Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei fiercely attacked Arafat as, "a traitor and a lackey of Zionists," for

Continued on page 2

Audit bureau finds many irregularities in public sector

Star Staff Writer

THE 1997 Audit Bureau report of violations and abuses in the government sector was handed over to the Speaker of the Lower House, Saad Hayel Sroor.

According to the Constitution, the Bureau's job is to highlight at the beginning of each ordinary session or under the request of Parliament, any violations in governmental institutions. The 1997 report uncovered many cases of embezzlement and misuse amongst the state apparatus. First of all, the financial dues of the ministries, directorates, public institutions and municipal councils reached JD 1.1 billion. This figure should be paid immediately to the Treasury.

Violations in each public institutions were listed separately. The report stated that the Ministry of Education hired non-Jordanian teachers against the directives of the Prime Ministry, and funds were embezzled in some schools affiliated to the ministry.

In the Civil Aviation Authority, unnecessary lighting units were bought at an expense JD 28,297. In the Greater Amman Municipality, the report discovered that signatures of engineers were forged to buy spareparts. This has cost the Municipality JD 96,000.

Meanwhile concerning qualifications, the report stated that 60 percent of employees in the Ministry of Tourism hold only Tawjihi high school certificates. The report also said

Continued on page 2

Internet links up Iranians to a world without borders

By John Daniszewski

TEHRAN—Computer entrepreneur Nasser Saadat's three sisters and two brothers live abroad, but he still manages to keep in touch. Even though he lives in Iran, he sometimes chats with his sister in Florida for two hours at a time. He can also tune in to the same radio stations that she hears in the United States.

How is this possible in a country whose tertiary international relations have kept it largely isolated?

"Through the Internet," explained Saadat, whose Neda Rayanah Institute sells Net access to about 200 Iranian companies. "It is like having my sister here. So where is the border?"

It used to be that individuals dissatisfied with conditions at home had to go abroad. In today's wired world, they can go online.

Even in Iran, the Internet is winning enthusiasts, especially among young people discon-

tered by hard economic realities and hankering for contact with the outside world.

There has been a boomlet in private Internet service providers—from two to about a dozen. The country's first cybercafe, Future Road, is opening near Tehran University. At Iran's International Trade Fair last month, students lined up to try 30 terminals offering free Internet access. For many, it was a long-awaited first chance to sample the World Wide Web.

The cost of computers and a fee of about \$100 a month to Internet providers tend to limit access to the affluent. Download speeds are limited by poor-quality phone lines. But computers are fairly common in offices, schools and companies.

For those who manage to link up, the Internet is a way to maintain ties with friends and relatives, troll for business and hunt foreign

employment and study opportunities. It helps them surmount the political, economic and cultural isolation imposed on Iran by the United States and by Iran's often problematic relations with other countries.

Saadat uses the Web's audio capabilities to cut the high cost of calling the United States.

Even though the Islamic government closely monitors the arts and media, Iran has no legislative barrier to Web access. Nevertheless, those promoting the Internet understand the need for caution.

Saadat voluntarily "filters" Web sites involving pornography, alcohol or calling for the overthrow of the Islamic regime. "You can teach people to use it in a good way or in a bad way," he said of the Internet.

"We're kind of lucky to have gotten as far as we have," said Siavash Shahshani of Iran's Institute of Studies in Theoretical Physics and Mathematics, who helped obtain Iran's initial Internet connection in 1993. "We stayed low

Continued on page 2

World REPORT

Al Jaaheth bookshop

A man's legacy continues

By Ibtisam Awadat
Star Staff Writer

WHAT HAPPENED in Jordan at the end of the British occupation may have seemed too good to be true for some. When the British forces were leaving the country, they had no option but to sell many of their belongings. Among the items suddenly on the market were 10,000 English books.

Sheikh Mamdouh Maaytah, a young man at that time, wanted to buy the library quickly. However, he was short on money so he sold a piece of his land in his hometown of Karak. The enthusiast appreciated books and was keen to expand his horizons. Armed with his books, Maaytah opened his first shop in Jerusalem, but was forced to leave the holy city during the 1948 Arab-Israeli war, so he returned to Jordan, and set himself up in Amman.

Today's narrow bookshop named "Al Jaaheth," after the famous Arab writer, is a pioneering center in the promotion of culture in Amman's downtown.

The evacuation took place 50 years ago, but his sons are just as addicted to the business as their father was. "My father spoke French, German, Turkish and Arabic fluently. He used to read any book that came his way," says Hashem Maaytah, one of the three sons who works in shifts with his two other brothers at the bookshop.

"My father's interests focused mainly on subjects of historical importance," Hashem Maaytah explains. The young man told *The Star* that a professor currently teaching at one of Jordan's universities acquired his masters degree as a result of the help of his father. Their father had special recorded information on the Great Arab Revolt, which proved indispensable.

The obscure location of the bookshop is popular with students, academics and bookworms alike, and may explain why thou-



Al Jaaheth bookshop, the dream of Sheikh Mamdouh Maaytah

sands of books change hands daily from this tiny shop.

Medical references dating back to 1800, such as an English encyclopedia, and a French reference work printed in Boulaq,

Egypt, after Napoleon introduced the printing presses there, are some of the valuable items available at the Maaytah bookshop.

"I sold a German encyclopedia, which was printed nearly 300 years ago for only

JD 2.5 per volume," Hashem adds.

The owners of the bookshop complained of the deteriorating situation of the business, mirroring the common economic stagnation. "People are no longer interested in

reading, partly because they can not afford to buy the books," explains Hashem.

The prices of new books are rather high considering the harsh economic conditions we live under. "If I was to limit my work to new printed books, it wouldn't do me any good," Maaytah tells *The Star*.

In an attempt to strengthen the demand for books, Hashem came up with two strategies. "I've started buying and selling second-hand books that are much more affordable to students." He adds that he also opens the door for people to borrow his books and when they return them, he charges the borrower a symbolic fee.

Sale of books has reached such a low level that competition between booksellers is now very fierce. Owners display their books at a very low price such as "four books for a dinar." "Generally, books on sale are very valuable, but no one bothers to take a look," said an Iraqi student busy rummaging. Maaytah admits that this generation lacks interest in books and this could be a threat, especially to rare books. "I believe that women in general are the least 'book-friendly,' since they consider them as mere items to decorate their houses."

Due to their passion for books, Maaytah and his late father have collected many books that were about to be thrown away. "Can you imagine, one woman used the pages from a unique collection of books she inherited from her deceased husband to build a poultry pen? We rescued what we could from these books, and actually had to gather some of the pages that had been blown onto the street," Hashem says in astonishment.

The Maaytahs appealed to officials and interested individuals to help them protect this national treasure. A large number of books are poorly stored in the basement of their bookshop and in the Maaytah house. If they are not cared for soon, they will soon become damaged beyond repair.



Queen Noor addresses conservationists

PARIS (Petra)—The world environment and conservation community met in Fontainebleau, France, on Tuesday to mark the first half-century of the International Conservation Movement, initiated in 1948 with the establishment of the World Conservation Union (WCU). Queen Noor, WCU patron—on a one-day visit to France—gave the keynote address at the opening ceremony, which was attended by French President Jacques Chirac, President of Burkina Faso Mr. Compaore, President of Mali Mr. Konare, and President of the Swiss Federation Mr. Corti.

The Queen began her speech by relaying a message from His Majesty King Hussein, whom she described as the "pioneer of the environmental movement in the region." She added that the King is responding excellently to treatment in the United States, which has enabled her to join them with confidence and with no worries. Queen Noor noted that when the WCU was born 50 years ago, it was into "a very different world, much of the globe was recovering from the worst conflict in human history and many countries were still under colonial rule, suffering unrestrained economic and environmental exploitation of their natural resources."

According to the Queen, the founders of WCU recognized "the need to mobilize the world community to protect our living planet. They had realized that conservation could not be a matter for governments alone. To be effective on the ground it needed the vital partnership of the non-governmental sector. This, in the context of the world at the time, was a revolutionary concept." Queen Noor said that two WCU concepts in particular now form the heart of environmental protection and economic development strategies in many countries. Firstly, the idea that people cannot be denied access to the resources of their regions, as long as it is ecologically sound, and secondly, that conservation and development are inextricably linked.

Jordan, according to the Queen, was among the many countries that benefited from WCU's technical assistance in formulating a national environmental strategy in socio-economic development. The Queen gave the examples of the nature reserves of Dana and Wadi Rum, where conservation efforts have been linked with tourism and revitalized local production to increase employment and income. Nature conservation also plays a vital role in national security, which according to the Queen, is "all too apparent in the Middle East, where water and arable land shortages, in particular, cause increasingly tense and sometimes violent confrontations among states, as well as within them."

The Queen noted that the potential seriousness of such conflicts over resources in the Middle East and globally has prompted WCU to launch a global initiative on environment and security to begin in 1999. This initiative will help illuminate the causes of tension and conflict, and identify how resource degradation leads to wider national disasters. It will also explore how jointly protecting and sharing natural resources can promote social stability, economic growth and peaceful coexistence.

The Queen concluded her speech by saying that "half a century ago, WCU's founders made a pledge to protect our earth. The problems we face are serious, but solvable—if we act now. We can bequeath to our children's children a world of abundant resources, rich diversity and natural beauty. We are gathered here this week to rededicate ourselves to fulfill that dream."

Internet links up Iranians to a world without borders

Continued from page 1

key, and before anyone knew it, the Internet was here. Advocates of the Internet had to overcome suspicion at home and from the West. Shahshani told of a cleric known for condemning the Western cultural invasion who demanded to see how to download a picture. Connections were balky, so it took Shahshani 15 minutes to capture half the image, a *Time* magazine cover. The impatient cleric left, convinced that the Iranian state had nothing to fear.

Until 1995, the entire Internet "backbone" was controlled by the US government, and any link required approval from Washington. One key individual at the National Science Foundation was opposed to Iran's participation, raising fears of espionage or computer sabotage.

Others argued the benefit of giving Iranians access to unfettered information. Tony Rutkowski, a founder of the Internet Society, was on the pro side of that controversy. "What I was able to do, quietly behind the scenes, was to make the case for getting them connected because it facilitated opening up the country," he recalled.

Many Iranians are glad that his argument prevailed. At the trade fair's Internet booth last month, Faradad Kordmahaleh, an Iranian American from Portland, Oregon, USA, had no doubts about the Web's potential to change Iran. "There are thousands and thousands of people here. And why are they here?" he asked. "Because they want to be connected to what is going on outside—they want to be connected any way they can."

Palestinians wait anxiously for Wye deal implementation

Continued from page 1

signing last month's accord. Abdel Rahim told reporters that the Palestinian forces have recently frustrated many Iranian-backed attempts to assassinate President Arafat, and senior members of his government.

Hamas said later that a direct dialogue has resumed between the Islamic movement, and the Palestinian Authority, "an action that

Israeli officials criticized and used as an excuse not to meet their commitments towards the recent peace accord.

Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai said later that the Palestinians had not yet complied with their promises, and accused them of withdrawing from what he called, "an essential obligation of fighting terror and arresting terrorists."

Palestinian officials responded by saying they had already met their obligations by submitting a detailed anti-terrorism scheme to the US intelligence officials (CIA).

The US State Department agreed with the Palestinians, saying that it is Israel's turn to meet its obligations towards the Palestinians, but officials were careful not to push too hard. "We believe that the Palestinians have done everything they are supposed to do for the agreement to be implemented," the White House Press Secretary Joe Lockhart said. "Although Prime Minister Netanyahu has raised some concerns, we are examining them carefully and still working them out."

In conclusion, two weeks have passed since the signing of the Wye Plantation agreement, and nothing yet has been achieved on the ground. Such hopes for a quick redeployment of the Israeli forces from the West Bank are still arousing high hopes among peace followers.

Audit bureau finds many irregularities in public sector

Continued from page 1

that there are many employees who do not match their job description in the ministry. Meanwhile, the investigations of the Audit Bureau indicated that a former retired

director of the Jebel Amman post office stole JD 16,800 from the accounts of depositors.

However, despite the long list, observers believe that the report will be quietly shelved, as was the case with reports of the previous three years. They are presently in the hands of the Financial Committee of the Lower House, and has not been discussed yet.

Hamas subdued for the moment

Continued from page 1

some Hamas supporters in Amman had been prevented from criticizing the Wye accord, Judeh confirmed that. "The members of Hamas who live in the Kingdom are Jordanian citizens, whose right of expression is guaranteed by the Constitution." The Secretary General of the Islamic Action Front, Abdulatif Arabiyat supported freedom of speech. "These are not military leaders, just leaders of opinion," Arabiyat said.

However, Al Nahhas was of another opinion. "The procedures taken by the Jordanian government against Hamas shows that the Kingdom itself is party to the execution of the security accord at Wye Plantation." Al Nahhas told *The Star*. "The government sees this as a chance to assume the role of a partner in the final status negotiations, in accordance with one of the articles in Wye accord, which stipulated the need for a third partner," Nahhas added.

However, political analysts disagreed with the PNA's heavy-handed approach in complying to the accord, whilst there has been no reciprocal effort by the Israeli's to counter Israeli terrorism and settlement activity.

"We oppose the arrest of anyone involved in the Islamic or Palestinian movements," said Arabiyat, "as we stand for national unity, and do not support this Israeli-American plan against the Palestinian people." In a further development, on his release from house arrest, Sheikh Yassin declared that Hamas would not carry out any assassinations on members of the PNA, as his members stood for real national unity. He claimed that such an action would only be playing into the hands of the enemy.

"These words are significant, but how long will Hamas put up with this treatment?" commented Arabiyat. So the situation remains the same. Whilst Israel is delaying the implementation of the accord, the PNA are arresting Palestinian nationalists. The real Hamas response is the only intangible sum in the equation.

Labor minister meets Ambassadors

AMMAN (Petra)—Minister of Labor Mohammed Mahdi Farhan met separately on Tuesday the ambassadors of Philippines and Sri Lanka, and discussed labor issues between Jordan and their countries. Dr Farhan stressed in the meetings that the citizens of the Philippines and Sri Lanka working in Jordan were being treated with respect, according to Jordanian laws and regulations and the international norms and conventions that govern labor relations between countries.

The Minister of Labor stressed to the ambassadors that Jordan is determined to take a series of measures aimed at organizing its labor market, as these are sovereign measures that will serve the interests of its market. Redun-

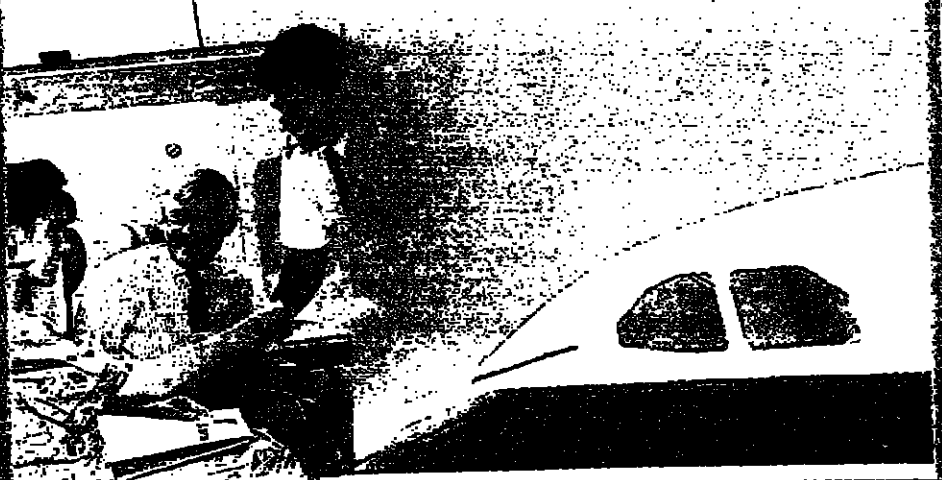
tant labor will be fired, thus the cooperation of their embassies and countries was required.

The laborers' rights will not be prejudiced, Dr Farhan stressed. The number of Asian laborers registered at the Ministry of Labor has reached 7635, but the actual figure of Asian labor is a lot more, indicating that most of these laborers are illegal. Dr Farhan called the governments of Philippines and Sri Lanka to cooperate with Jordan to insure that all laborers coming to Jordan work according to Jordanian laws and regulations.

The two ambassadors pointed out that they understood the Jordanian measures to safeguard the rights of its citizens and of the foreign

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'Madame Butterfly' at the Hotel Inter-Continental Jordan

THIS IS a fascinating new stage production by the Performance Exchange Theater Company, taken from the original Opera production and transformed into a beautiful stage play. This two-man show tells the tale of a tragic love story between Cho-Cho Son from Japan, and a Benjamin Franklin Pinkerton from the USA. The story takes place in Nagasaki, where Pinkerton first meets Butterfly, falls in love and decides to marry her. Pinkerton then abandons his new wife, unaware that she is bearing his child. While in America, Pinkerton learns of the child and...

To know the ending of this delightful play, reserve your ticket as soon as possible. Tickets are on sale at the Inter-Continental Hotel, and the performance is scheduled for 18 November 1998.

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JORDAN

W E E K

An unconventional report on Jordanian news and views edited by Marwan Al Asmar

King Hussein's Birthday

A two-day holiday in celebration of the King's birthday will start on Saturday 14 November. On Monday 16 November, the Kingdom again will have a holiday to celebrate Prophet

Mohammed's ascension to heaven. Government departments and public institutions will close their doors on the occasion. Under the directives of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, a committee has been formed to organize celebrations all over the Kingdom. Representatives from the Ministries of Tourism, Culture, Information, Education and Islamic Affairs will be part of the committee. All Jordanians are expected to join in the celebrations.

King Hussein

Constitutional point

Parliamentary and judicial sources have said that there is no constitutional conflict surrounding the absence of His Majesty King Hussein from the country for more than four months. Lower House speaker Saad Hayat Al Sroor said that the issue is simple enough. According to the constitution, Sroor added that the Lower House would hold a session to hear the latest update on the health of King Hussein. Sroor said that this session is called an ordinary or an extra-ordinary session. However, there is still debate as to the exact date of the convening of Parliament. Some say it should be held before 14 November, but others say it will be immediately after the three-day holiday, due to start on Saturday.

Jobs, jobs and more jobs

This is not exactly the case. However, earlier this week the Ministry of Health announced that it has 1200 vacancies in its hospitals and health centers throughout the Kingdom. Minister of Health, Naei Al Ajlouni said he was surprised by the massive response his ministry received from the public. About 18,000 applied for the various jobs that are vacant. For the next couple of weeks the Ministry will have its hands full in sifting through these applications.

Distance learning

Surprise, surprise. Our educational system could be in line for major changes. Because of the development of technology, namely the Internet, in this country, long-distance learning could be just around the corner for many Jordanians. The Council of Higher Education is already thinking about introducing the service in public universities. That way, learning would become so much easier, and would certainly reduce the pressure on public education.

Deportation

Minister of Administrative Development Bassam Al Omoush said that foreign workers who have not fixed their papers are being deported. He added that so far 95,000 workers have already organized their status in line with the laws of this country. However, he said there are about 500,000 workers in the country who are yet to legalize their stay in the Kingdom. He said that most of these workers just sit idle, adding that they will be told to leave the country in the next two weeks.

Back to politics!

The Muslim Brotherhood could be joining the political life of the country once again. After boycotting the national elections last year, there could again be filtering through. Overseer of the Muslim Brotherhood, Sheikh Abdel Majed Thunibat said the movement will fight the forthcoming local elections that are due to be held next summer. This is good news indeed, for the country needs a viable opposition because it would reinvigorate the national political scene. The Islamic movement has strong local roots, and it is thought that they would do very well in the local elections. If they do fight the elections, and this is not yet a foregone conclusion, this would be regarded as a stepping stone for the Islamists to rejoin the national political scene.

Irbid

More than 2650 kilograms of foodstuffs were destroyed in Irbid for being out of date. In addition to this, 134 warnings were issued. The number of violations were 64, while reported health complaints were 62. Health inspectors visited 1341 establishments and closed down 64 of them.

Islamists and opposition figures express their dismay on latest Wye deal

ISLAMISTS AND opposition forces have been quick to reject the Wye accords signed in Washington over two weeks ago. They called on national institutions to take a united stand against what they call 'the process of Judaizing the entire Arab land'.

Their latest move was manifested by a national rally organized by the Muslim Brotherhood last Sunday, bringing together various political forces. During the rally several speeches were delivered, showing a huge resistance to any peaceful settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Abdul Majid Thunibat, the Overseer of the Muslim Brotherhood, told the meeting that the accord will undermine the Palestinian resistance in the Occupied Territories, and could harm its national figures as well. "This pact is for sure a true translation of what Netanyahu really wants: to fight terrorism and achieve security for Israel," Faisal Dabbour, a well known opponent, told the meeting. Dabbour was speaking on behalf of opposition parties in the Kingdom.

Participants have asked the Overseer to call on a meeting of the Executive Committee on 5 November to draw the outlines for activating the national position based on the latest political

developments following the signing of the agreement.

The committee includes secretary generals of the professional associations and the political parties along with many national figures in the country.

It is widely expected that other committees will soon be formed to oversee financial and legal affairs responsible for organizing activities that will take place in the coming weeks.

George Haddad told the assembly that by signing this agreement, "A new phase of concessions has begun." Hamed Al Farhan, member of the Brotherhood, spoke of the real impact of the agreement. "It looks obvious that the main objective behind this accord is to create a national wedge in Palestinian society," Mr. Al Farhan added that the only way to turn down these devilish goals is, "by uniting our stand and working together to save our national identity."

The Secretary General of the Islamic Action Front (IAF), Abdel-Latif Arabiyat, called on all participants to form a national committee to follow-up on the suggested proposals. He also warned against any further actions to undermine the Islamic resistance in the Palestinian territories, questioning why the issues of a Palestinian state and Jerusalem were not mentioned in the agreement.



Ramallah—Prime Minister Faysal Tarawneh arrived, Saturday, in Ramallah on a short visit to the Palestinian self rule areas to hold talks with Palestinian President Yasser Arafat. Jordanian-Palestinian talks, which began upon the arrival of Dr Tarawneh and the accompanying delegation, focused on the different developments in the region, especially on the Palestinian-Israeli track after the signing of the Second Stage accord that was attended by His Majesty King Hussein. The two sides also discussed economic relations. The delegation included the Ministers of State for Development Affairs, Industry and Trade and Information. Photo from Reuters

Prince Hassan tells Israeli television that peace is the only way out

AMMAN, (Petra)—His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, stressed the need for all parties involved in the Middle East peace process to conclude agreements in a more sustainable and comprehensive manner. The Prince also called on putting aside incidents that might be exploited by anti-peace groups.

"If we want to talk about all the noises opposed to not only the Wye accord but to peace in general, then I think we will not be only skeptical but we will succumb to certain despair and that is something I have never done and we have never done in Jordan," Prince Hassan said in an answer to a question on whether he is skeptical on implementing the Wye River agreement between the Palestinians and Israel in an interview with Israel's Channel 2 station and shown on JTV, Sunday night. Excerpts follow.

Answering a question on the feeling of despair prevailing in the Jordanian street despite the four-year peace treaty between Jordan and Israel, the Regent said, "I think the feeling of disappointment is not a reflection of rejection of peace. On the contrary, I think it is a feeling that some of the stated goals of peace have not been achieved. For example, I think there was an over statement of hopes in terms of the opening of trade with Israel and the Palestinian territories."

The Regent noted some achievements over the past four years. "What is more important is, for example, the question of water. When there was a commitment, we have

been able to resolve this life-giving issue," the Regent said.

Referring to terrorist actions and whether they impede progress towards peace, the Regent said, "What is important is not incidental crisis here and there. What is more important is to recognize that we have to continue to break down the fear of peace. Lashing out against enemies of peace may be an expression of that fear of peace."

In relation to Hamas in Jordan, the Regent said, "There is no Hamas headquarters or secret camps. We would not tolerate or accept this and this is very clear. We stand on the line alongside all the opponents of terror."

Talking about extremism, the Prince pointed out that, "Whether in the Jewish world or the Arab world or in the Islamic world, so long as there is no progress to peace, they [extremists] will continue to exploit this issue."

In reply to a question on whether Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is a man of peace after signing the Wye River agreement, he said, "We have to judge Wye on its own merits. We have to accept that here is a man—who is clearly the Prime Minister of Israel—who has been decisive in accepting the fact that there is a new dynamic today. And I



Prince Hassan

think that in this sense we have to give Wye a chance. I think criticizing a politician is an excuse to break down the peace process, or what is left of it, would be a tragic disaster for all concerned."

On whether the implementation of the Wye agreement is something possible in the wake of recent terrorist attacks, and on how the peace treaty will be implemented despite continued terror, the Regent said, "The implementation of the Wye agreement has not actually started. Of course the tragic loss of life is what spurred His Majesty to say 'enough death, enough destruction.'"

He said it was important to "bear in mind that Wye is about implementing the interim phase, and Wye is not

Al Qadissieh takes the title!

Continued from page 1

For those who did not read The Star Sports page last week (or the reports in the 'equally reputable daily English newspaper'), a news update is necessary at this stage. Al Faisali (who at the time were leading the league), walked off the pitch during a title-deciding match against lowly Al Qadissieh, after the match officials disallowed a goal from Al Faisali's striker, Jerius Tadris, with eight minutes of the game remaining.

To quote from the 'equally reputable daily English newspaper', "There was a subsequent assault on the referees by the Al Faisali fans and administrators." Now the fans outrage I can understand (Note: but condone), but what where the so-called administrators doing? Administering the law into their own hands, I suppose.

Anyhow, the long and short of it was that the following day Al Faisali withdrew from the League, which prompted the Jordan Football Association (JFA) to order a replay of the match against Al Qadissieh, which duly prompted Al Wihdat to withdraw from the League as well.

The JFA subsequently suspended and fined two Al Faisali officials for their part in

the fracas, and an employee at Sports City and a JTV cameraman have been surrounded by the police for beating up the match officials.

In a bid to resolve the disputed match, a panel of five referees met to decide on the legitimacy of Tadris' goal. The rapporteur of the Referees Committee, Abdul Lanif Abdul Majid, reported that the panel failed to come up with a unified stance regarding the goal, because the television recordings could not be relied upon (consequently, they upheld the match referee's decision). One wonders where this referee panel met (a concrete bunker springs to mind), and what was at the back of their minds when adjudicating? To coin a well-used political phrase, I think 'security first' was their main concern. As for the reliability of the TV tapes, I can only assume that they were good enough to catch the TV cameraman 'administering' his feelings.

The incident proves that too much power rests with the big clubs (like Al Faisali and Al Wihdat). If the tables were turned, and it has Al Qadissieh who abandoned the match, would they have been offered the prospect of a re-match? In England, if a team walks off the pitch, then they have abandoned the game, and the other

team automatically collects the points. End of story.

The no-foreigner rule in Jordan is also detrimental to the game, as is the selection of teams based on tribal loyalties. When you limit the number of players you choose from, you limit the strength of the team, and consequently the level of competition in the Premier League. Players and coaches alike only improve when they are forced to play at a higher level. A case in point, if Arsenal were to limit team selection to players from North London, then the unemployment rate in France would rise dramatically! Atletico Bilbao operate a 'Basque' only selection policy, and when was the last time you saw them on the victory rostrum?

Anyhow, I'd better end things here, because I can see the Doctor wants me off the computer (is that a red card I can see in his pocket?).

Before I go though, I have a solution to the current Premier League crisis. The same five-referee panel found that the match referee did not actually end the ill-fated Al Faisali game. So if any of Al Qadissieh players are reading this, get down to Sports City now—you still have eight minutes to score!

US religious freedom!

Yet again the US is trying to assume the role of policeman of the world after the US President signed the "law of international religious freedom". It was attacked by many Jordanian columnists.

Nigola Nasser of *Al Arab Al Yawm* wonders if the US Congress can issue such a piece of legislation that can be applied to other sovereign states. Indeed the law which was signed by Clinton last week gives his government the authority to do so!

Accordingly, an ambassador was assigned to monitor religious freedom in other countries, and he has authority to impose economic sanctions on any state that violates this freedom. In turn, the US President has full power to discuss these violations with the concerned foreign government; however, he has to present the final results to the American Congress, a process which Nasser says could cause embarrassment to the president and the other governments, because it involves a serious breach of secrecy which is supposed to govern these negotiations.

The first country to suffer from the consequences of this law is Sudan, since Clinton decided to renew the economic sanctions imposed on it for one more year. The reason for such a renewal was because, among other things, Sudan allegedly denied the religious freedom of certain factions. Nasser adds that the law marks a new phase in international relations, because it overlooks the status of the UN and turns to sovereign countries as the source of authority. Nasser says the purpose of this law is to give power to the US to violate the sovereignty of foreign countries, and interfere in their affairs. He adds, the US will use this law to serve its foreign policy.

Munis Al Razaz in *Al Rai* on the other hand, is sure that the new law was especially designed to threaten and blackmail Egypt. He says there is a western campaign to accuse Egypt of repressing the Copts. This campaign reached its peak a few days ago when *The Sunday Times* published a news article about mistreatment of Copts by Egyptian security men. Copts leaders however, denied the existence of such repression, but nevertheless pointed out that some encroachments have taken place. Razaz says that in any case, Copts can solve these problems through dialogue with the government. The US law can be a double edge-sword. Al Razaz says Arab-Israelis can write a huge memo to the US about Israeli practices against their religion, but nothing will be done about such violations, because Israel is a dear friend of the US.

These violations against Muslims and Christians are not figments of our imagination, as Arabs constantly complain about those practices on live radio and television.

George Hadad in *Ad Dastour* says despite the development the world has reached, we have not yet completely overcome religious repression in certain parts of the world. Even the US has a certain degree of the "social disease", which includes religious and ethnic discriminations. Hadad says the new law is similar to other international laws that are legislated by a superpower to practice its authority and hegemony on other nations. Like other laws it might talk about the rights of women, children and freedom of expression, which gives them a noble and modern face, but "they are like hunters who are waiting for their prey." He says these laws "try to tear societies apart in the name of legitimate interference in the internal affairs of other states." However this law will only impose sanctions if they do not pose a threat to US national interests abroad.

Annual race by FO-O to start on Friday

On the occasion of His Majesty King Hussein's birthday and in co-operation with the Faculty of Physical Education in the University of Jordan the Friends of the Orphaned Children Organization (FO-O) presents the 1st Annual walk/run of between five and 10 kilometers on Friday 13 November. The race will start from the Jordan University Stadium at 9 am. The Major Sponsor is UNFPA. Other sponsors include Industrial Development Bank, Bargan Drug Store, Coca Cola Co., Rafidi Printing, Books@Cafe, Royal Wings, Power Hut, and Stallions. Winning prizes are available for every one, including air-plane tickets. Entry Tickets are available at the Jordan University, Amman Private University, Stallions, Music Box, Safeway, Books @ Cafe, Power Hut, McDonald's, and C Town. Entrance fees for students will be a half a dinar, whilst adults will have to pay JD 2.00.

The Yugoslav Airlines



kindly announces that it will change the timings of its scheduled flights. These flights include destinations to Moscow, Bucharest, Prague, Belgrade, Zurich, Kiev, Skopje, Sarajevo, and Belgrade due to take off on the same day.

For more information, please call: Yugoslav Airlines, at Shmeisani area on Telephone numbers: 5676515- 5676516- 5676517; Fax: 5676518

05.11.1998



Our Say...

Iraq: Lift the sanctions now

THE LATEST crisis between Iraq and the United Nations should not be blamed on Iraq. It is true that both the United States and Britain are threatening military action against Baghdad for its decision to halt all dealing with UNSCOM—the UN body responsible for monitoring Iraq's disarmament—but it is also true that the international mood has changed in a way that the only way out of the current deadlock lies in diplomacy and diplomacy alone.

Much has been said about Iraq's compliance, or non-compliance, with UNSCOM's regulations. But that is no longer the issue for the international community. What is more important now is the integrity of the UN appointed body and its ability to carry out its mandate quickly and effectively away from political influence and dictates of certain parties. The world community is now obsessed with the heavy humanitarian price that the Iraqi people are paying as a result of the seven-year-old sanctions regime. The suffering of the Iraqi people has reached a stage where it can no longer be dealt with in isolation of the UNSCOM agenda.

Iraq's decision to halt all dealings with UNSCOM and the weapons monitors is not intended as a departure from its commitments to honor UN resolutions, but as the only way to bring to the world attention the fact that the Iraqi people are being subjected to one of the most inhumane forms of collective punishment. UNSCOM has achieved a lot during the past years and Iraq's military might coupled with its ability to produce weapons of mass destruction have been curtailed.

No one is arguing against halting long-term monitoring. But the real argument now is that sanctions should be lifted and Iraq must be allowed to rejoin the international community. Both options can work together and none should compromise the other. This is the message that Baghdad wants to send to the world. Maintain the inspections but allow the Iraqi people to live their lives free of the specter of the sanctions.

Washington and London should consider this latest crisis carefully. The mood is not in favor of a military action and even if both wanted to take out few presidential palaces and other installation, the core issue remains. The time has come to end the sanctions and restructure UNSCOM. Long-term monitoring can be maintained without the heavy toll that is now being paid by the Iraqi people. The simple truth is that we have had enough with seeing helpless Iraqi children die everyday. There is no moral argument to defend keeping the sanctions anymore. The time to lift them has come.



A young boy holds a portrait of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, founder of modern Turkey, among the thousands of people queued to visit the mausoleum of Atatürk in Ankara during the celebrations marking the 75th anniversary of the secular republic. Picture was taken on 29 October, 1998.

Reuters

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Why did Iraq choose to boycott the UNSCOM?

By Mohammed Sharif Jayousi

THE decision of the Iraqi leadership to halt its cooperation with the UN Special Commission (UNSCOM) on Disarmament came hours after the Security Council sent a letter to the UN Secretary General Kofi Annan demanding a comprehensive review of the sanctions. However the review was based on the fact that Iraq must continue to cooperate with the commission.

It is clear that the Security Council has turned a blind eye to the alleged violations by some commission members including its chief Richard Butler who often breached the professional nature of the commission. Iraq's decision was taken at a special meeting headed by President Saddam Hussein who again demanded a total lift of the eight-year sanctions.

The Iraqi decision further states "that the Iraqi leadership has decided to break off all cooperation with UNSCOM and its chief and stopped all of its activities in Iraq, including the monitoring operation, as of 1 November."

The decision excluded the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), and gave it the full permission to continue its activities on condition that it works independently of the UNSCOM.

In this respect Iraq has shown its political shrewdness and diplomatic intelligence as it differentiated between UNSCOM, a commission that has always gone beyond its UN mandate, and the Agency whose work has always been of the highest standard. In the last year, scandals have beset UNSCOM. They began with the famous American Ritter's affair. In spite of his position as vice chairman of UNSCOM, he, and another Chilean expert spied for US and Israel. In this respect it may be argued that the Security Council is only seeing half of the truth by imposing the



UN weapons inspector from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) leave their headquarters in Baghdad 4 November for inspections. Iraq announced last Saturday it was ceasing cooperation with UN weapons teams after an 5 August announcement barring all intrusive inspections, such as spot searches of suspect sites with little advance notice.

embargo. Iraq's latest decision was boosted by two inter-related factors: the issue of the VX nerve gas in the Presidential palaces. Failure to equate the two together have proved the fallacy of the accusations made by the US administration and the chief of the commission.

The French and Swiss labs have assured that no signs or traces of the gas exist in these palaces.

Despite these facts, the Security Council have not moved even one iota against Butler or even sent a note to the Americans

expressing their dismay for wanting to start another war in the region.

It is clear today that a large segment of the Arab and Muslim people live under international embargoes, and aggression. On the other hand, Israel receives all financial and military support to retreat from some of our occupied lands, but this is made at huge expense, and so as to safe-guard its security Iraq has taken its decision only after its leadership exercised its pressure fully to stop more violations against its sovereignty.

Arab American activists On The World Wide Web

By Saliman Mostafa

JUST WHEN you thought we have witnessed enough political, social, and technological revolutions, it was only the beginning. Welcome to the world of the Internet. Old paradigms of mass communications "crumbled" before our own eyes. Mass media monopolies were loosened overnight. It was the US Defense Department which has given the world this gift of mass communications.

Now any Joe or Mary with few bucks to spare and the patience to read few Web pages can have instant visual and audio contact with tens of millions of net surfers. Another equally powerful internet innovation is the electronic mail. Farewell to stamps, envelopes stuffing, and bulk-mail.

However, the web is Darwinist by design. Even the big boys of mass media had to compete for viewers' attention with a new breed of mass media outlets. The situation was not different for the world of Arab Americans. The web is baptism by fire in full view of hundreds or thousands of cyber onlookers.

Imagine this. An activist in Bethlehem, PA picks up the local paper and discovers much to his/her disappointment an inflammatory or inaccurate reportage worthy of a letter to the editor. When no correction is issued and no apology mentioned, the activist then logs on and with a press of a button floods the web waves with calls for action.

The cycle of grassroots action has been shortened from days to hours, thanks to the affordable and accessible mass communications medium of the internet. Even the frequency of calls for action has increased. This is not to say there has been a rise in defamations. But the web afforded us a vast panoramic view of the real world beyond

our TV sets and the occasional action alert and newsletter. The web is about the active quest for knowledge, not passive and filtered consumption of information.

Since the dawn of the internet, web activists owned the day. The almost sudden decentralization of grassroots activism gave rise to a new genre of grassroots leaders. The traditional gatekeepers of national media have been bypassed. Today, the world of Arab American activism is much larger than once thought.

A while ago, at the request and of a friend, I joined an activists distribution list on the internet. Not long after, correspondence from unfamiliar names started landing in my mailbox. After discarding most names, few ones deserved a follow up.

Many of their correspondences were so impressive in form and substance I often collected some as mementos and reference material. I decided to join as many of these lists as possible hoping to meet the talent at large. Was I pleasantly surprised. On the web, I have discovered an impressive orchestra of activists. They do it in the spirit of dedication and the almost genetic predisposition to stand up to injustice and falsehood. If this is the new Arab-American generation, I shall retire in peace.

When an offensive site to Muslims was removed a few months ago, it was a reaction to worldwide condemnation. Emails poured in from around the globe from as far as Malaysia, Pakistan, and Germany.

Call it hard-earned victory or overreaction, the lessons learned are simple. You now have a friend in Kuala Lumpur.

In the absence of gatekeepers on the web, the power of global networking is now possible. One no longer needs the annual conventions and conferences to link-up with activists. The web has revolutionized networking altogether. Even outside our community, we have discovered



friends who are as dedicated in their support of our issues as we are.

Many of us who would balk at the thought of meeting the Dark Side on a personal level, find the web a convenient transition. Peace activists on both sides of the proverbial divide often join forces on issues of common interest. When Newt Gingrich made his infamous trip to Jerusalem and threatened actions that were deemed irre-

sponsible by many Arabs and Jews, a massive uncoordinated email campaign, was launched by many American and progressive Jewish organizations and activists demanding Gingrich refrain from further irresponsible actions.

Action alerts and correspondence from groups found their way to the inboxes of members of another. All were calling for the same action: Say No To Newt. When flare-ups occur in the Occupied Territories, news updates arrive on the web from Israeli peace groups before national media catches on. Debates are triggered and all sides to the issue participate.

And when it's time to draft that killer letter to turn the tide of the battle, there is no news like real news to reference. Want facts off the wire AP, Reuters, UPI, and CNN? You got it, and free of charge. There is nothing more persuasive than to reference an American news source when corresponding with an American official. Who cares what the Al-Hakeekah Al-Murrah paper said yesterday. Need reference material to validate those pesky dates and casualty figures, the web is your

one-stop shop. Have the urge to see what the Dark Side is up to, too they have web sites of their own while keeping an eye on yours.

This free-news explosion founded a niche for news middlemen on the web. These are Arab American internet news junkies who sift through the latest news websites. These are the news anchorwomen and anchorwomen of the world wide web. They don't read you the news, they make sure you read it. The free access to myriad of internet news sources and reference material have created what amounts to a sensory explosion. News, news, and more news. To me, the only value of a printed US paper is keeping with tradition of coffee and paper in the morning. Why put up with the arbitrary 24 news blackout of a printed paper as if the world comes to a halt until the presses move. Hit that dial button on your PC and click on Yahoo.com for the latest. Read something you like or don't like, fire up an email. Express yourself.

With the internet, the landscape has irreversibly changed for Arab American activism. Centralization is out, gatekeepers are lining up at the unemployment office, and mass media is truly for the masses. We now have been truly empowered to know and to do. No filters, no holds barred, and no excuses. None what so ever. Call it virtual or digital, the results so far have been very tangible.

E-mail: saliman_mostafa@att.net

Middle East Beat by Khairi Janbek

Vital issues

COMPLIMENTING HIS Majesty King Hussein's efforts of removing the obstacles facing peace, and the continued coordination with the Palestinian National Authority (PNA), the guidance of Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, emphasizes our collective Hashemite leadership's support to the independent Palestinian political decision.

In this vein, came the visit of Prime Minister Tarawneh to the PNA territories. The question of final status negotiations is complex enough without adding further variables, and extra players on the scene. It is clear enough that the final issues related to the establishment of a Palestinian state are a matter of negotiations between the concerned parties: PNA and Israel. Linking Jordan to the final status talks is likely to give the wrong impression about the clear Jordanian position. These negotiations are in as much about the fate of the future Palestinian state, as the vital problems that directly affect Jordan.

This is due to the common history that binds the Jordanian and Palestinian people together. The PNA is the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people as it is recognized by both the Arab consensus, and the world. But ultimately, the weight of history cannot but make Jordan's presence at the next phase of Palestinian-Israeli negotiations inevitable. This must be taken as given. For a start, there is the issue of overlapping sovereignty and the right to self-determination. The West Bank on the eve of occupation, was part of the sovereignty of our Kingdom, but also, the Palestinian people have every right to demand their own self-determination.

Therefore, the issue can only be resolved by getting together, the sovereign state, the occupying power, and the aspiring state with national self-determination, together in order to resolve the important legal issues. We may all choose to ignore facts, but at the end of the day, important facts will not ignore us.

Furthermore, the Palestinian decision is an independent one, which is totally supported by Jordan, and the Palestinian leadership has the confidence of the Palestinian people to realize their aspirations. But the question of vital Jordanian interests cannot be resolved in the absence of a Jordanian representation, because of such vital issues such as refugees, Jordan as the biggest host, and largest donor does have a say in this matter. Not only us, but also our various brethren whom are hosts to the Palestinian refugees, must have a say in this matter as well.

To assume that the whole problem can be resolved on the Palestinian-Israeli table of negotiations, would mean an overwhelming burden on the shoulders of our PNA workers. The sharing of water and water resources, are far more self-evident than requiring any explanation. It would be impossible to conceive of any such talks taking place, without any representation of Jordanian interests. Next comes the point of security and secure borders. Undoubtedly, at one point or another in the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations, the question of secure borders and their arrangement will have to be discussed.

Both directly concerned parties would seek the most amicable arrangement that suits their common interests, which means that Jordan also has every right to reach an amicable arrangement that would secure its own borders as well, and with both parties. It is in the interest of all of us, that confidence building measures should take place at that point, and with enough good-will and cooperation all obstacles can be removed. Finally, the thorniest of all issues, Jerusalem, cannot also be passed without mention. Jordan recognizes East Jerusalem as the capital of the Palestinian state. There is no confusion about that but the status of the holy places is by and large an important Abrahamic legacy, that touches all the faithful around the world. If we look at the recent reports, the Vatican has demanded clearly a role in this matter, so do we really expect Jordan, with all its sacrifices and modern as well as historical links, to sit as a spectator? We should all be reconciled to the force of history.

Business scene

■ The total proceeds of the Arab Bank Group during the first nine months of 1998 were estimated at JD 140 million. This year's proceeds is a 18.3 percent increase on the same period last year. The Group's branches in Jordan alone earned JD 32 million. The Arab Bank is a worldwide business, with 370 branches and offices in all.

■ The total turnover of shares exchanged in the Amman Financial Market (AFM) during the last 10 months reached JD 309.5 million. This is compared to JD 276.5 million for the same period last year. Sources at the AFM say that over 170 million shares were exchanged, although the prices of these shares have declined by 4.4 percent since the beginning of the year.

■ The Jordanian-Egyptian Joint Committee will hold its 15th session in Amman on 18 November. The meeting will open the electrical supply project that will link the two countries. A new agreement on free trade exchange will also be signed, all with the intention of strengthening trade relations between the two countries.

■ The Free Trade Zone at the Queen Alia Airport has been officially annexed to the Airport Customs Center. The Ministry of Finance issued an order to assign staff for the Zone from existing staff at the Customs Department.

■ The New Trade and Industry Law went into effect at the beginning of the month. The new law terminated the old Ministry of Supply, and formed a similar body with wider mandate to include under the auspices of the Ministry of Trade and Industry.

■ Minister of Finance, Michel Marrou, has ordered the Jordan Telecomunications Company to pay the Treasury JD 47 million, which is a remittance figure for the past year. The Minister also confirmed that as of this month, the JTC is to pay the Treasury JD 11 million every month. A financial consultant at the Ministry had earlier presented a detailed financial report, which showed that the JTC earned over JD 100 million in revenues during the first half of this year.

■ The Jordanian Corporation for Investment Promotion hosted last week a special delegation of Chinese businessmen from Hong Kong.

The delegation held meetings with many officials, and toured some of the national economic institutions in the Kingdom. Montasser Oklah, director general of the corporation, informed the visiting delegation of the major Jordanian economic developments, and of the institutions and legislations in place to promote investment in the Kingdom.

The 35th Conference of the Arab Chambers

The dream of an Arab common market

By Ghassan Joha
Star staff writer

THERE IS a prominent school of thought which believes that real economic integration can only be obtained by the creation of large trading blocs. The Arab world has been slow to accept this concept, and greater efforts are deemed necessary to fuse together the great economic, financial and labor potential of this region.

Pursuing this issue, the 35th Conference of Arab Chambers convened last week in Amman, under the patronage of HRH Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent. Over 17 Arab countries participated in the two-day conference, which was presided by Haydar Murad, the President of the Jordanian Trade Chambers Association, and many Arab and international economic experts and correspondents were in attendance.

Prime Minister Fayez Tarawneh, deputizing for Prince Hassan during the opening ceremony, delivered the Royal address calling for greater regional investment from Arab investors and governments, adding that Arab countries should commit their capital to their own region, because the financial returns would then benefit the Arab community as a whole. The address noted that as of today, this was not the case.

The Regent's address described the conference as, "A good opportunity for deepening the Arab dialogue on many issues, and for drawing up a blueprint for the Arab economies at the advent of the 21st century."

Prince Hassan said that such gatherings represented the basic component for greater

inter-Arab economic efforts, and would enable wider cooperation and the eventual formation of a Pan Arab common market—something that would benefit everyone in the region. "It is time to lay the foundations for an Arab economic bloc, that will enable our economies to confront the challenges of the future," Prince Hassan's address noted.

The Regent issued a warning to all the delegates, when he noted that the trade exchange between Arab countries amounted to only eight percent of the overall Arab foreign trade volume. "We in Jordan, were first to call for a more intensified joint Arab economic action plan, in order to unite our efforts," said Prince Hassan.

During the first day of the conference (held on 1 November), the speeches and work papers focused on the idea of an Arab common market, and its importance to the region.

Burhan Dajani, the General Secretary of the Arab Chambers Union, said in his address, that the implementation of an Arab Free Trade Zone (AFTZ) is dependent upon governments adopting more liberal economic policies. A reduction in the amount of custom tax, and compliance to the World Trade Organization's (WTO) economic regulations were also prerequisites.

The conference noted that to commence with an AFTZ, it would have to comply with the current international regulations, and ensure that some sort of regional economic arrange-



Prime Minister, Fayez Tarawneh during the conference.

ment was in place. Care was needed to ensure that developing countries would not be at the mercy of world markets. The conference asked all the concerned parties to draw up a time-table and to begin implementing the decisions as soon as possible.

Investment of Arab capital into Arab markets has never been so important, but the delegates noted that the low economic growth rates, non-developed markets, poor economic infrastructures, and the political and economic instability within the region as a whole were detrimental to this goal.

For this reason, the conference hoped to establish an infrastructure to encourage greater private investment from the financial and banking sectors, as only then would these sectors be willing to proceed with investment of this kind.

Wasif Azar, a well known Jordanian businessman, commented that the achievements

in the Jordanian economy to date were the result of the government adopting 'open-market policies.' Mr Azar noted that in Jordan, increased private and public sector cooperation had led to many successful developments, and ensured that the benefits of Arab capital are felt at home.

Various workshops looked into the process of setting up more inter-Arab projects and the AFTZ, and they noted that although the first step was dependent upon each government giving its approval, it was the private sector that had to take the lead. Consequently, the conference called on all Arab governments to meet this challenge.

The conference stressed that economic development could only be obtained by keeping up-to-date with the latest developments in Information Technology. Focusing on agriculture, the conference observed that full advantage should be

taken of new developments, which can increase food production in general, as this would be beneficial to the Arab markets.

On the second day of the conference—held at the Radisson-SAS Hotel—the delegates submitted their recommendations, and called for a comprehensive review of the economic reform policies, in order to solve the economic problems facing the region. Their priorities were the creation of more labor opportunities, greater cooperation between Arab institutions, and stricter controls on foreign companies giving priority to the local labor force.

The conference ended with a hopeful call to all Arab governments to coordinate their policies together, whilst working alongside the WTO and the European Union. The 36th Conference of Arab Chambers has been scheduled for November 1999, and will be held in Tunisia.

نقد الدورة الخامسة والتلاتون لعمان
عنان تشرين الثاني ٩٨

Business Chronicle

Violations

CATCHING THE culprits is the name of the game this week in Amman. Officials at the Trade and Industry Directorate in the Amman Governorate have been busy in destroying out of date staple foodstuffs. This is a good move because it shows that the call for consumer protection is being heeded, and the concerned authorities are willing to walk that extra mile to guarantee the health of Jordanian consumers.

By the end of October for instance, and after an extensive tour of factories, foodstuffs and different vegetable markets, city officials issued 1316 violation warnings to traders.

At the end of their tour, officials confiscated 2662 kilograms worth of nutritional items that were displayed, but had been in fact out of date. Officials have said that these items could have resulted in a major health hazard.

It is interesting to know the kind of goods that were destroyed. They included: grains (394 Kg), canned fruits and vegetables (301 Kg), sweets (536 Kg), milk and its derivatives (331 Kg), meats (299 Kg) and many other products.

Also three butchers violated the law for selling meat that was falsely branded. They have since been taken to court. In addition, 17 butchers were given warnings for selling what they claim to be imported meat.

The list goes on. Three large factories and a bakery were penalized for failing to meet the required specifications.

The warnings show two things. Firstly, some traders do sell expired goods, and secondly, the authorities must remain vigilant at all times. More tours are needed because this is the only way to protect the Jordanian consumer from scrupulous merchants. At the end of the day, however, the only long term solution to the problem is to establish a more ethically minded business culture, but this could take a while.

Copyright:

What do the experts think?

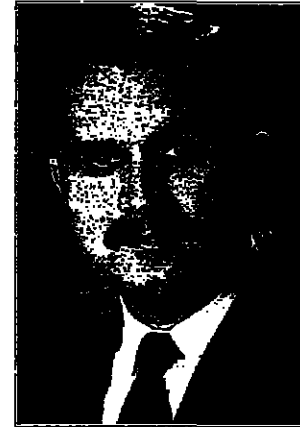
IN CONTINUANCE efforts made on behalf of the government to amend several of its laws in order to comply with the TRIPS agreement, the amended Copyright Law No. 22/1992 was finally published in the October issue of the Official Gazette. The new law is a modified version of the old one, but certain flaws that used to exist have now been amended at the advice of a council of experts and organizations specialized in this field, such as the WIPO.

The new Law has produced some major amendments that would ensure ideal protection of copyrights and other related rights. In this regard, and amongst a number of criticisms and supporters of the Law, we look at the opinions of two of the concerned legal experts.

Basil F. Abdo, a legal consultant in the Middle East Global Advocates & Legal Consultants (Mid-Globe) says the measures taken by the government to regulate and rectify the status of copyright protection in Jordan are only a few of many to be taken in this regard. Nevertheless, they still constitute a major step forward.

For example, the new law, he adds, has adhered to the different international treaties and conventions, and has increased the period of protection granted for 'copyrightable' works to 50 years from the date of publication (up from 30 years in the old law). It also protects the economic rights conferred on the author by Law as a result of his intellectual creations for a period of "Life plus 50," where the same protection period was only "Life plus 30" in the old law.

Another new addition is the protection provided for neighboring rights (related rights). Neighboring rights are "rights neighbouring on copyright." In the past, as per the old Law, neighboring rights were not protected. Meanwhile, after the new amendments, the scope of protection is extended to include the following: a) Performers' rights in the protection of their individual interpretations of different works (50



Talhoni



Abdo

years from the performance); b) Producers of phonograms' rights in protection against unauthorized duplication of their phonograms, and their right to remuneration for the use of phonograms for purposes of broadcasting and other communication to the public (50 years from fixation). c) Broadcasting organizations' rights in protection against unauthorized retransmission of their broadcasts by other broadcasting organizations and against such reproduction thereof (20 years from broadcasting).

But above all, one of the major amendments that will be credited for the legislators is the omission of the requirement of deposition to effect protection. What is meant here, is that court cases concerning the illegal use of 'copyrightable' works used to be rejected if the concerned works were not previously deposited in Jordan in accordance with the Law.

This requirement has caused a great deal of problems in the past. In a vast majority of countries with copyright and neighboring rights regulations, protection is granted to works without the need of deposition. Consequently, most foreign authors did not deposit their works in Jordan due to their belief that the conditions for protection were bound to be similar to that in their countries. In addition to the difficulties the author would face if he was to deposit his works in every country. Such mis-knowledge of the law has resulted in the free unpunished usage of their works, due to the lack of protection.

Luckily, the requirement of deposition is no longer a condition for protection, neither does the failure of deposition affect the author's rights.

Finally, amidst the signs of progress made, I think that it is worth mentioning to say that "the ball is now in the possession of the authorities," and it is up to them to "make or break" the Law. As one knows, laws are seldom respected if they lack strict enforcement by the authorities, and proper awareness of the consequences of their violation by the people. Therefore, let's "hold our horses" for the time being and not rush into drawing premature judge-

ments about the law. Let us give the authorities a chance to "say its word!"

Dr Bassam Al Talhouni of the Assistant Professor of Law University of Jordan strongly believes that any good law will stay impotent, even without proper enforcement. Accordingly, the need for a strong enforcement of the new amended Copyright Law is the only way of guaranteeing efficiency of the articles of the Law. No doubt, the Copyright Law contains many aspects that require the involvement of the authorities in a very strong manner, so as to put things in order.

This is tangible in many ways; first, as per the articles of the Law, an office called the "Office for the Protection of Copyright" shall be established within the Department of the National Library. Upon enforcement of the provisions of this Law, the office's staff shall be considered members of the judicial police.

If there is evidence that a violation of the Law has taken place, the office's staff shall have the right to inspect the premises in which works are printed, distributed, reproduced or produced. They shall also have the right to seize copies of any material used to commit any violations of the Law.

If the authorities prove that a person has violated the Law, he may be punished with the following: an imprisonment sentence of a period of 3 months to 3 years, and/or a fine between JD 1000 to JD 3000. In case of repetition, the violator will be sentenced to the maximum imprisonment period and the maximum fine. In addition to this, he may also be subject, by the decision of the court, to the closure of the corporation/premises where the violations of the Law took place for a period not exceeding one year, or its license can be revoked for a specified period or endlessly.

The enforcement of the Law will have many positive effects, in the long run, on the Jordanian economy. Some of those will be the encouragement of foreign investment and intellectual creators to work in more secure and protected copyright environment. It will also facilitate Jordan's enrollment in international conventions such as Berne, and the WTO.

G7 plan to help economies at risk

By Robert Chote

THE GROUP of Seven leading industrial nations have backed a scheme to protect well-run, emerging market economies from potential financial crises.

The agreement on the US plan for precautionary credit lines is designed to prevent financial turbulence spreading from country to country in a "contagion" process. The plan, which lifted stock markets and strengthened the dollar, forms part of a wide-ranging statement by finance ministers and central bank governors on reforms to strengthen the global financial system.

Brokered by Gordon Brown, the UK chancellor

and chairman of the G7 finance ministers, it follows months of turmoil that has swept the world economy.

"We must do more to build a modern framework for the global markets of the 21st century and to limit the swings of boom and bust that destroy hope and diminish wealth," said the G7 heads of government.

Analysts noted that the G7's statement was issued as officials from Brazil flew to Washington to discuss a \$30 billion-plus rescue package with the International Monetary Fund.

The statement reaffirmed G7's commitment "to create and sustain the conditions for strong, domestic demand-led growth," suggesting that the

door remained open for further interest rate cuts in the industrial countries.

Agreement on the US credit-line proposal is a step forward from the IMF's annual meeting a month ago, where German reluctance meant G7 could only agree to "explore" the idea.

"The central element would be the establishment of an enhanced IMF facility which would provide a contingent short-term line of credit for countries pursuing strong IMF-approved policies," the G7 said.

President Clinton said, "This line of credit gives us a powerful new tool that can be used when it will do the most good, at the lowest cost, before the trouble



starts."

The IMF yesterday agreed to conditions set by the US Congress when it passed an \$18 billion quota contribution last week. It will now include in its programmes for debtor countries requirements that they liberalise trade, eliminate subsidies and treat foreign debtors the same as domestic debtors. To promote crisis prevention, the G7 agreed to comply with IMF codes of conduct on monetary and fiscal policy, as well as to provide information on their public sector foreign exchange positions. They also urged the examination of disclosure requirements for financial institutions, such as hedge funds and investment banks.

Financial Times
Syndication

The Star
Jordan's political, economic
and cultural weekly

OnLine

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arabia.com

Naouri Group
Represents the Saudi Arabian
Standards Organization (SASO)

SINCE THE beginning of October, Amman Shipping and Transport Co., one of Naouri Group Companies, officially started its mission as representative of the Saudi Arabian Standards Organization (SASO) in Jordan. To carry out this task, staff underwent specific training in Al Sharjah, UAE.

The Naouri Group has exerted considerable effort in developing Jordanian exports and to opening the Saudi market to Jordanian products, for the benefit of all Jordanian exporters.

It is worth mentioning that Saudi Arabia demands SASO certificates for

66 imported products, of all categories such as electrical products, toys, cars and their accessories, chemical products and many others.

Mr Ibrahim Naouri, Chairman of the Naouri Group, expressed great relief after this important accomplishment. Previously inspectors from neighboring countries had to come to Jordan to conduct proper inspections, and exporters had to wait ages for the certificates to arrive from Sharjah.

Mr Naouri confirmed that the Group will continue to search for new means to support Jordanian Exports and the Jordanian Economy.

Foreign Exchange		
Wednesday, 4 November 1998		
	Buy JD	Sell JD
US\$	0.7080	0.7100
£	1.1510	1.1568
DM	0.4124	0.4145
SP	0.4801	0.4825
FRF	0.1227	0.1233
YEN (100)	0.5624	0.5652
DEM	0.3667	0.3685
LYR (100)	0.0419	0.0421

Iraqi challenge narrows UN options

By John M. Goshko

UNITED NATIONS—Iraq's latest defiance of the Security Council has put the United Nations and President Saddam Hussein's regime on a collision course that UN diplomats fear will once again force the world body to consider countering Baghdad's challenge with the threat of force.

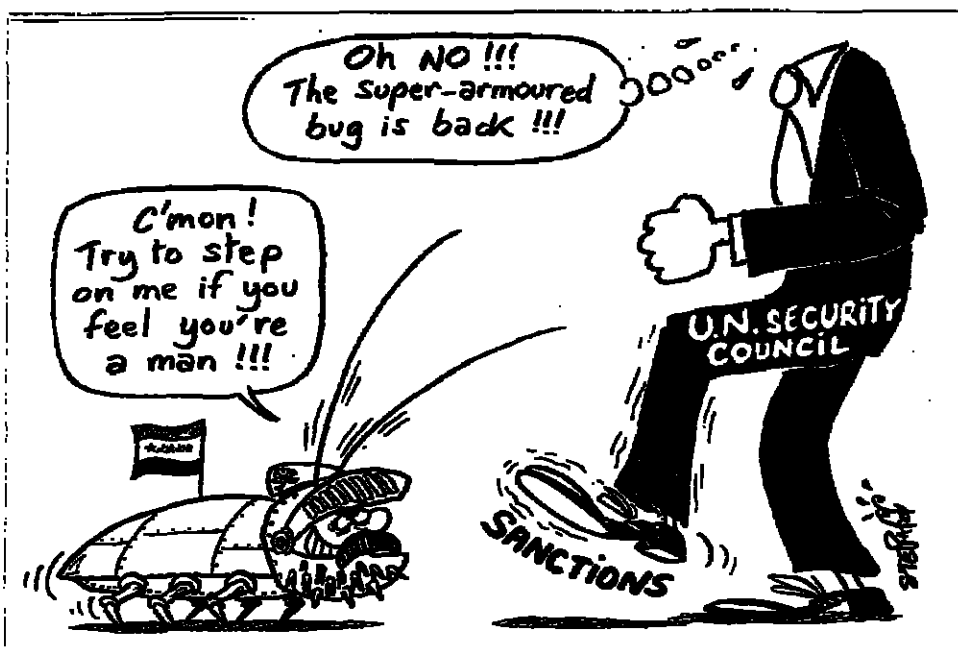
That was the predominant view here on Monday, after Iraq's decision last week to halt all cooperation with UN weapons inspectors and demand the immediate lifting of the economic sanctions imposed on it by the council during the 1990-91 Persian Gulf War.

Although Baghdad insisted it was not seeking a confrontation, its action was denounced by the 15-member council as "a flagrant violation" of its orders, and it immediately caused the United States to warn that it might resort anew to threats of a military strike, either with the council's backing or on its own.

However, diplomatic sources here said that it probably will take a while, perhaps two weeks or more, before the situation reaches a military confrontation. As past confrontations between the United Nations and Iraq have shown, there is a diplomatic ritual that will have to be played out first. That began Tuesday, when the council discussed its previous demand that Iraq rescind its decision "immediately and unconditionally" into a formal resolution as a springboard for further action. The sources said that could take until the end of the week, and then, they added, the council would have to start considering what that action should be.

Some diplomats here already have started suggesting that Secretary General Kofi Annan should be dispatched to Baghdad in hopes that he could repeat his success of last February, when Iraq had barred inspectors from entering certain suspected weapons sites. At that time, he averted an imminent UN military attack by working out a compromise reaffirming UN rights to conduct inspections under the terms of the 1991 cease-fire that ended the Persian Gulf War. Iraq's UN ambassador, Nizar Hamdoun, said Monday in Amman, that he expects Annan to open talks directly with Baghdad, and he added, "We still have trust in him."

However, while Annan has said it is up to the council to



decide what he should do, sources familiar with his thinking say he is very reluctant to go because he believes that this time there is no negotiating room to strike a deal with the Iraqis.

In addition, the United States privately is very cool to the idea of a new Annan mission. Although he described Iraq's latest action as "a total breach of Security Council resolutions," Annan also is known to think that getting Baghdad's renewed cooperation requires UN inspectors to be less intrusive in future searches for prohibited weapons. That runs completely counter to US insistence on continuing a tough inspection regime. Washington also dislikes the way in which the Iraqis, since February, have tried to maneuver around the Security Council by dealing directly with Annan.

In Washington, President Clinton met with his top foreign policy advisers to discuss strategy options and said that "until the inspectors are back on the job, no options are off the table."

The president ordered Defense Secretary William Cohen to travel to Europe and the Persian Gulf to consult with US allies. Cohen, who left on Monday, said to consult with London, and with the leadership in Saudi Arabia. White House officials said that sending Cohen rather than Secretary of State Madeleine Albright was intended to emphasize the threat of military action.

Diplomats here pointed to the likelihood that those perma-

nent council members that advocate a more flexible line in dealing with Iraq—notably Russia and France—would try to intercede, as they have in past confrontations, to urge Baghdad to back down. Both countries joined in the council's Saturday statement of condemnation, and France particularly has shown signs of losing

patience with Iraq. The more likely candidate for an intermediary's role, diplomats said, would be Russia, whose prime minister, Yevgeny Primakov, is a former foreign minister who has worked hard to nurture a special relationship with Saddam Hussein. In the opinion of many diplomats, Primakov

probably would view acting as peacemaker as a welcome distraction from wrestling with the bankrupt Russian economy.

In the end, though, sources here say, no one really has much faith that any of these expedients will deter Iraq from its present course. In that case, the sources add, it no longer would be possible to avoid choosing between allowing Iraq's defiance to go unchallenged or turning to the threat and, if necessary, the reality of air and missile strikes to compel its compliance. The latest Iraqi move is the second stage of a confrontation that began on 5 August, when Baghdad blocked UN field inspections. At the time, the United States, in contrast to its responses in earlier showdowns, did not threaten force because of awareness that military strikes would get no international support and would prove controversial domestically. This time, many diplomats believe, Washington would have to act with or without support, or forfeit its credibility in dealing with Iraq.

LA Times-Washington Post News Service



An Young Israeli writing a wish in memory of the 3rd anniversary of the assassination of former Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin last week.

Arafat chooses high-risk strategy

By Judy Dempsey

IT COULD be just cosmetic, to show Israel and the US that Palestinian forces are cracking down after last week's suicide bombing of an Israeli school bus in the Gaza Strip.

However, the house arrest of a prominent leader of Hamas—the Islamist militant movement—could be the start of a confrontation that has been brewing between Hamas and Yasser Arafat, Palestinian Authority president.

Probably only Mr Arafat knows, as he keeps under house arrest Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, the ill and wheelchair-bound spiritual leader of the Hamas, which claimed responsibility for the bomb.

Either way, it is a high-risk strategy. If Mr Arafat lifts the house arrest, Israel will accuse him of paying lip service to fighting terrorism. If he maintains it, it could gal-

vanise support among Palestinians who believe they gained little from the Wye interim accord signed last week in Washington.

Sheikh Yassin is a popular cleric, especially in Gaza, where he returned last year after nine years in an Israeli jail. Mr Arafat hoped he would be a moderating influence in Hamas, leading to some reconciliation with the Authority. He did not.

One of the reasons was that Hamas and Mr Arafat fundamentally disagreed on how to attain political independence. Hamas believes in armed struggle, and eventually an Islamic state. Mr Arafat, on the other hand, signed the 1993 Oslo Declaration of Principles which recognised Israel's right to exist and the principle of a negotiated final settlement anchored on the exchange of land for peace.

Since then, Hamas has used the terrorist weapon to derail the peace process,

often coming close to confrontation with Mr Arafat. Hamas is adamant it does not want civil war. "The Palestinians would be the only losers," said one official.

Yet Hamas believes Mr Arafat conceded too much to Israel and the US by signing last week's accord. Israel, it said, would not stop building new settlements; it would hand over no more than 40 per cent of land to the Palestinians; and there would be no date set for release of 3,300 Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails.

By also agreeing to a security plan to combat terrorism, Hamas believes it will give the Palestinian security forces carte blanche to quash dissent. As part of that plan, Israel has insisted that Mr Arafat dismantle Hamas even though it failed to do so when it occupied all the West Bank and Gaza. Mr Arafat's chances of succeeding might have been greater

had he been able to show concrete, immediate gains from the Wye talks.

"The Palestinian team cashed in whatever they could [at the Wye talks]," said Ghassan Khatib, director of the independent Jerusalem Media Communication Centre and a former Palestinian negotiator. "They paid a very high price." He added that Israel obtained the maximum security guarantees from the Palestinians but conceded the minimum of land. "Mr Arafat will have difficulty in selling it to his people."

The Palestinian leader may also discover that unless the Wye accord produces tangible results—including the release of some prisoners, freedom of movement between the West Bank and Gaza, and an airport in Gaza—sympathy for Hamas may increase at the expense of his own authority.

Hamas wing threatens retaliation against Arafat's police

By Lee Hockstader

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM—With its founder under house arrest and scores of its activists in jail, the armed wing of the militant Islamic movement Hamas threatened violent retaliation against Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Authority if it continues to press its campaign against terrorism.

Analysts said they doubt Hamas is about to launch a civil war in Palestinian-controlled territory, but they said the statement does reflect the intense pressure the group has come under since Arafat signed a Middle East peace agreement last month promising to fight terror.

Following the agreement, Palestinian security forces began rounding up Hamas leadership and tank and file. The arrests were intensified after a suicide bomber, reportedly sent by Hamas, armed with the Izzidin Qassam Brigades, tried to blow up a school bus carrying Israeli children in Gaza last Thursday. According to Hamas, several hundred of its activists have been arrested.

The statement, in a leaflet faxed to Reuters news agency, said the arrests could lead some in Hamas, in spite of the orders of their superiors, "to direct their war and guns, out of necessity, against the (Palestinian) Authority's security apparatus."

Adding an unusual personal attack, the statement said the Washington peace agreement and the crackdown on Hamas meant "Arafat and his oppressive security apparatus have committed the utmost in betrayal, complete subordination and absolute loyalty to Israel."

In the face of Israeli and American demands that the Palestinian authority attack militant groups operating from its territory, Arafat's aides have long cautioned that an all-out war on terror could ignite a Palestinian civil war. Arafat is suspicious that civil strife among Palestinians is precisely what Israel wants, as a means to derail his drive for an independent state.

Analysts said Sunday's statement appears to be authentic. However, Ismail Abu Shanab, a leader of the political wing of Hamas in Gaza, said in an interview with Qatar's Jazeera satellite television that the statement contradicted the group's policy.

Some observers cast doubt on the notion that Hamas or its armed wing is preparing a violent response to Arafat's crackdown. They noted that recent statements from Hamas reaffirmed the group's commitment to Palestinian national unity.

"This reflects frustration

and anger rather than a determination to move against Arafat," said Khalil Shikaki, director of the Center for Palestinian Research and Studies in the West Bank city of Nablus. "Eventually they'll acquiesce to what Arafat wants to do (unless) Arafat uses violence against them first."

In the past, Arafat's security services have arrested scores of Hamas leaders and suspected activists, humiliated some by shaving off their beards and tortured others. In many cases their arrests were prompted by information supplied by Israel.

However, Israel says it believes the suspects are routinely released in what amounts to a revolving door for terrorists. That complaint, and the Palestinian Authority's strong denials, was a main point of contention in the talks a fortnight ago in Maryland. In the end, Arafat agreed to carry out a campaign against terrorist groups, monitored and assisted by the CIA.

The campaign started immediately. During the White House signing ceremony, journalists in Gaza who went to photograph and film Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, 62, the founder and spiritual leader of Hamas, were arrested by Palestinian police, and held for two hours. Hamas activists were rounded up—many of them not for the first time.

In the wake of last Thursday's suicide attack on an Israeli school bus, Yassin was placed under house arrest and his telephone lines were cut. A dozen or so Palestinian police officers, some in plainclothes, were posted in the dusty alley leading to his house in Gaza, and all visitors were barred. There were reports that police searched his home. On Sunday, five Palestinian lawmakers began a sit-in outside the home of Yassin, who uses a wheelchair.

The Hamas statement Sunday alleged that the Palestinian Authority and Israel, under the supervision of the CIA, are plotting to assassinate Mohammed Deif, the reputed leader of Hamas' armed wing. Israel contends Deif, 33, is behind a number of bloody attacks, including the school bus attack, in which an Israeli jeep escort bore the brunt of the blast and an Israeli soldier was killed.

Several of Hamas' most notorious militant leaders have been killed in recent months, including a pair of brothers shot by Israeli commandos in the West Bank in September.

LA Times-Washington Post News Service

FBI terror probes focus on US Muslims

By John Mintz and Michael Grunwald

IN THE tidy working-class suburb of Bridgeview, Illinois, Mohammad Salah instructed children in the Koran. He prepared the dead for burial at his local mosque, and he observed the solemn Muslim obligation of zakat, giving generously to charity with the conviction that all things belong to God.

However, the FBI says Salah's idea of zakat included nearly \$1 million in donations to the Palestinian extremist group Hamas, some of it for Uzis, rifles and other weapons. In their first use of a new law targeting the assets of terrorism supporters, prosecutors have seized Salah's bank accounts and are trying to take his house—all without a criminal trial.

The Justice Department's case against Salah is one of the few public signs of a dramatically expanded set of investigations of Muslim Americans suspected of aiding overseas terrorists. Emboldened by tough new anti-terrorism laws and huge increases in anti-terrorism funding, the FBI is scrutinizing at least 20 US groups with suspected links to terrorism, including some tied to Osama bin Laden, the alleged ringleader in the bombings of two US embassies in Africa.

In the case of bin Laden, authorities have focused on Wadiah Al Hagi, a Texas man charged in connection with the embassy bombings, as the main cog in a network that allegedly also included a former sergeant in the US Army, Ali A. Mohamed, who was arrested last month in New York. Officials also are scrutinizing the activities of a now-defunct Muslim group in Brooklyn, the Alkifah Refugee Center, some of whose members were convicted of bombing the World Trade Center in 1993.

Grand juries in New York, Chicago and Tampa are investigating other Islamic groups, and the FBI has sharply stepped up its applications for secret wiretaps designed to combat terrorism on US soil. Officials say the heightened vigilance is needed to monitor an expanding number of threats, from a Detroit man who allegedly tried to smuggle high-tech surveillance gear to Middle East terrorists to an American network of Iranian students who allegedly spy for Tehran.

Civil libertarians and Muslim activists say the agency is using its increasing resources to persecute Muslims who support unpopular causes.

"The FBI is basically saying: 'Trust us. We're hunting down bad guys,'" said David Cole, a Georgetown University law professor who represents groups challenging provisions

in a 1996 law barring "material support" to alleged terrorists. "But they're going way overboard."

The investigations are drawing on broad powers granted by Congress to fight terrorism after the World Trade Center and Oklahoma City bombings. The new laws give the FBI greater leeway to pursue possible associates of terrorists even when they are not suspected of specific offenses. The statutes also make it a crime to send money to foreign groups the State Department classifies as terrorist, and bolster the government's ability to use classified information to detain suspected terrorism supporters in immigration cases.

Meanwhile, Congress has boosted the FBI's counterterrorism budget from \$118 million to \$286 million since 1995, and the number of FBI employees assigned to anti-terrorism matters has more than doubled, to 2,650.

Some US groups are under investigation for financing their overseas allies who provide humanitarian services in addition to their violent activities. Salah, for example, who once served time in an Israeli prison for terrorism, contends that his donations supported hospitals, schools and day-care centers for poverty-stricken Palestinians, and that the FBI is essentially criminalizing private charity. Cole said the provisions would have barred Americans from helping the anti-apartheid African National Congress in the 1980s.

Officials acknowledge that their main focus is on Muslim individuals and groups. "We have a problem with Islamic terrorism," said a senior Justice official. "If we had a problem with Latvian terrorism, we'd focus on Latvians." They argue that because bin Laden and other Muslim radicals have declared war on America, they cannot ignore their supporters here. Some experts believe Middle Eastern terrorists are increasingly dependent on their US

allies. Hamas, for example, raises about one-third of its \$30 million annual budget in this country and Europe. University of Illinois terrorism experts say.

"The vast majority of Muslims are honorable, decent people," said Steve Pomerantz, a former FBI counterterrorism chief, "but US interests are in danger from Middle East terrorism. You have to be able to say that without fear of being called a bigot."

Investigators claim some important victories to justify their aggressive approach. The first started in February with the "material support" provisions of the anti-terrorism law was Fawzi 'Frank' Mustapha Assi, a Ford Motor Co. engineer who lives in Dearborn, Michigan, with his wife and three children. As the result of what his attorney believes was a tip, the FBI, with authorization from the Justice Department's wiretap court, started in February watching him 24 hours a day, tapping his phones and sifting through his garbage.

On July 13, Assi was stopped at the Detroit airport on his way to Lebanon. In his luggage agents found \$124,000 worth of electronics: two global-positioning satellite units, seven pairs of night-vision goggles and an infrared imaging camera. The FBI says Assi said that he was delivering the gear to contacts in Hizbollah, or Party of God, an Iranian-backed group in Lebanon that attacks Israeli forces and is on the State Department's terrorism list. The FBI said Assi also tried to discard, in trash bins around Dearborn, documents about Israeli cabinet members and the locations of their offices.

Assi, charged with export law violations and giving material support to terrorists, insisted he was an apolitical family man with no ties to Hizbollah. A judge released him on bail with an electronic bracelet. A few days later he fled, reportedly to Lebanon. "It's peculiar," said Assi's attorney, David Steingold. "I really

thought the FBI was off-base. Now I don't know what to think."

Meanwhile, Salah—a US citizen—has denied any links to violence, but American officials describe him as a "high-level operative" for Hamas who financed armed attacks on Israelis. He served five years in an Israeli prison for alleged terrorist activities before returning last November to Chicago, where he had first moved from the Middle East in 1970 and where, according to Israeli officials, he taught Palestinian students how to make car bombs.

The FBI says Salah also made several trips to the West Bank and Gaza to help a top Hamas leader named Mousa Mohammod Abu Marzook, a longtime Fairfax County resident who was deported to Jordan in 1996. In hundreds of pages of public documents, the FBI has outlined a complex series of covert real estate deals it says were designed to launder \$820,000 from a Saudi company to Hamas. Eventually, most of the money ended up in Salah's bank account after transfers from accounts controlled by Marzook in McLean.

While Salah has not been charged with a crime here, FBI agents tell him everywhere and question people he meets. In June, prosecutors filed an unprecedented "forfeiture complaint" seizing his bank accounts and taking steps to remove him, his wife, Azita, and their four young children from their house. They seized another \$1 million from the Quranic Literacy Institute, an Islamic group that had a hand in the real estate deals.

Now the institute is all but shut down, and the Salah family is living on donated food. Salah is no longer allowed to have financial dealings—including with his lawyer and his doctor—unless they obtain special Treasury Department licenses. "This situation is undemocratic and bizarre," said his attorney, Matthew Piers. "If they've got something on my client, charge him criminally."

Salah admits only that some of his funds may have flowed to the "political" wing of Hamas, a main provider of social services in the West Bank and Gaza. US officials say Hamas' "political" leaders also oversee the clandestine "military" wing that has killed scores of Israelis in bombings and executed hundreds of Palestinian "collaborators." US officials also say donations to Hamas charities free funds for the military cells, which promise lifetime assistance to the families of suicide bombers.

LA Times-Washington Post News Service



POLAND

Independent Day 11 November

Foreign investment forever increasing

WHEN THE country set out to establish a market economy in the early 1990s, one of its chief aims was that Poland is open for business and to the world. Such a philosophy, as it was then, indeed, it has become the cornerstone of its economic policy.

Polish planners have come to believe that part of the rejuvenation of the Polish economy involves the attraction of foreign capital. Outside investment has been coming in droves, registering a sky-high figure of \$25.5 billion since the restructuring program began in 1992. In the first half of 1998 alone, more than \$5 billion was invested in Poland.

The news becomes good when it is realized that only \$2.2 billion was registered in 1997. Today, the country receives 50 percent of the total foreign investment placed in Central Europe.

Poland is seen as a very attractive market for a lot of big multi-national companies. The number of investors who invested more than \$1 million as registered by the Polish Agency for Foreign Investment increased from 492 in 1996 to 584 in 1997.

While the European Union

has the biggest share in foreign investment in Poland—70 percent—the Asian multi-

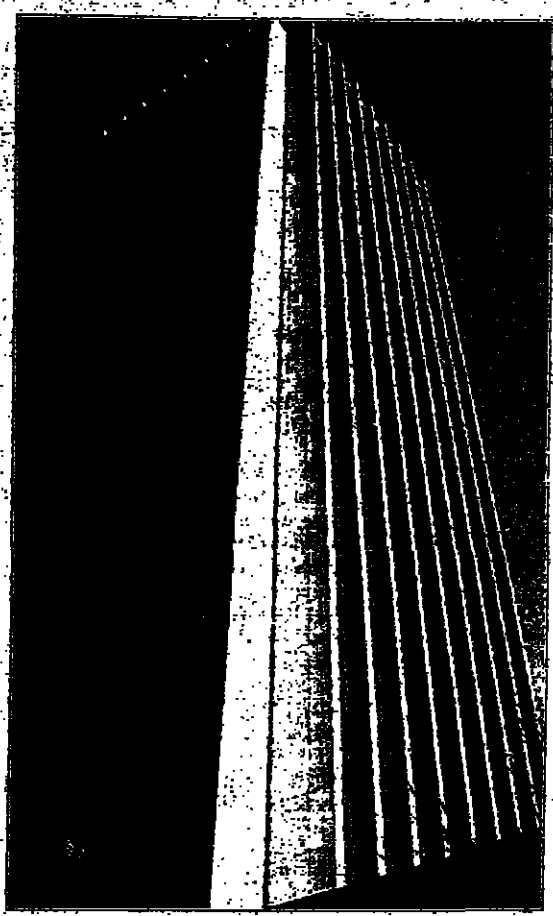
the Korean Daewoo at \$1.21 billion. In addition to cars, Daewoo manufactures elec-

tronics and telecommunications. In 1988, the Russian Gazprom has come in the country with a gas pipeline investment project estimated at \$834 million.

However, foreign investment tends to be well-rounded. In addition to the manufacture of means of transport and chemicals, overseas companies are wanting to set up food production plants.

Pepsi Co and the Coca-Cola companies have already established a strong foothold in Poland with huge investment outlays. Indeed, together with banking ventures, they are one of the 10 biggest foreign investors.

What is interesting is that foreign capital is coming from across the globe. In Europe for instance, Germany comes top of the list, followed by Britain, France and Italy. As well as the Koreans, there are direct investments from the Japanese, and the Taiwanese.



New Image of Warsaw

nationals, and companies from the USA and Russia are strong contenders.

In 1988, the top 10 investors included the car giant Fiat with investments of \$1.25 billion. This was followed by

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Prudent policies chart steady course for Poland

POLAND'S TRANSFORMATION from a command economy to one based on the free-market has been relatively smooth and successful at the same time. The country is in a far better shape to go into the next millennium as it was in the early 1990s, when Poland started on the transformation process.

With productivity increasing, investment soaring, and the development of a more consumer-based market, the Poles can look towards their achievement with pride. The Gross Domestic Product has been constant, reg-

istering respectable figures that have hovered between 5 and 7 percent. In 1997 for instance, it hit the 6.5 percent mark, which is far better than those registered in the region.

Poland—whether in services, manufacturing, construction or in the extractive industries—has witnessed extensive growth across the board. Polish economic planners suggest that this is the result of the introduction of better management systems, dictated by the concept of privatization. In 1997 for instance, the growth of industrial production was faster than in the previ-

ous two years. The magnitude of this can be seen in the fact that in companies employing more than five people, industrial sales increased by 11.2 percent, compared with 9 percent in 1996.

However, the total output of manufacturing industry increased by 13.5 percent. Still higher was the 16 percent increase in the production of investment goods.

This was reflected in the foreign trade figures, but even here there was an odd anomaly. Although exports increased by 14 percent in the second half of 1997, the imports also increased. In 1995/96, it was 30 percent, but stabilized to 23 percent in the second half of 1997.

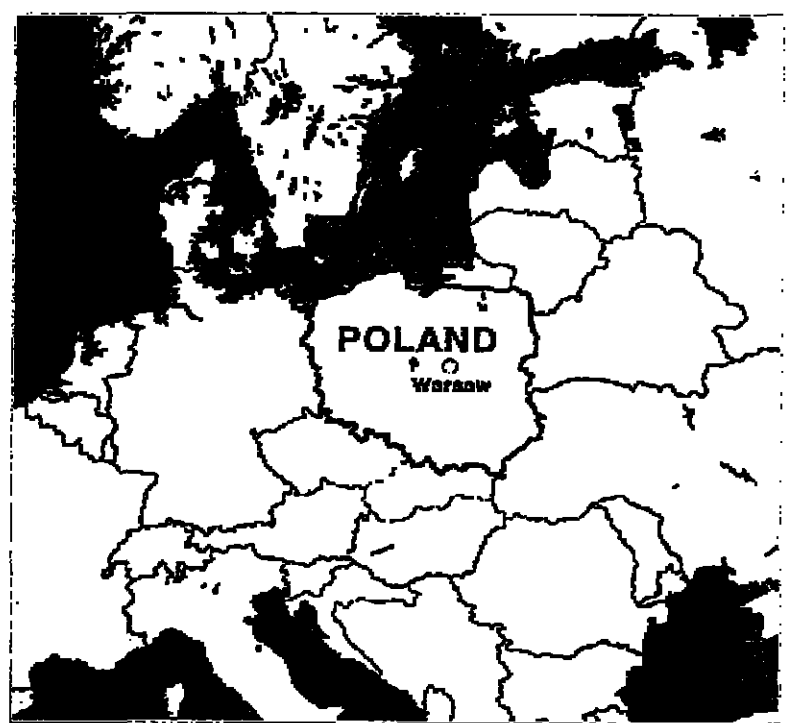
Experts have since said that the increase was a mere reflection of the structural changes to the Polish economy, and it was differences in supply and demand that accounted for the increased imports. Exports were having quite a job in keeping up with imports. This is precisely because of the changes in lifestyle of the Polish consumer, and the feel good factor. With less stringency, higher wages and more consumer choice, the 'feel good factor' has started to set in. In normal circumstances, higher imports would alarm economists because it means higher spending, and that would spiral inflation.

However, in the new transitional model, the Polish economy became pegged by two stabilizing factors. Firstly, in 1997 unemployment fell by 534,000, which was the steepest for the whole of the transitional period. It remained at 1,826,000—a rate of 10.6 percent of the Polish labor force.

Unemployment steadily crept up from 1991 to reach just under 3 million in 1994. Since then, it gradually went down.

This shows that the economy is more flexible than it ever was, and something that is due to the success of the privatization process. The unemployment rate this year is expected to dip into single figures.

The other stability factor in the economy is the level of inflation. Poland has been consistent in that regard. Its inflation rate today is put at just under 10 percent. While this is still a high figure that needs to be trimmed down, the inflation rate was 37.6 percent in 1993. It fell to 18.5 percent in 1996. The steadily decreasing inflation figure means that the government is being successful in balancing its economic strategies—pursuing a free-market policy while streamlining the economy, and cutting the fat out of non-profitable economy. It was this process that allowed wages to rise in 1997.



Poland in figures

Land area: 312680 (Sq km)
Arable land (% of total area): 60
Population (million): 38.7
Rural population (%age): 38
Employment 1996 (in million): 15.8
Sectoral employment in 1996 (%age of total): Agriculture, 28
Industry (incl. construction), 29
Services, 43
Parliament: Bicameral system
Sejm (Lower House): 460
Senate (Upper House): 100
Political parties: 5
Production: GDP (billion zlotys): 445
GDP per capita: 3,512
Currency: zloty

A country for tourists

TOURISM IS a major contributor to the gross national products for many countries in the world. Indeed for states like Cyprus, Tunisia and the Bahamas, the tourist industry is not only a thriving business, but is vital to the economy as well.

Poland is no exception. Due to her geographical location in Europe, its rich terrain and architectural heritage, the tourist industry is a booming one, and a major contributor to the economy. The country's income from international tourism was \$8.7 billion in 1997, a 3.6 percent increase over 1996.

Its location—Russia, Belarus and Ukraine to the east, Czech and Slovak Republics to the south and Germany to the west—makes the country ideal for cross-border visits. President of the Office of Culture and Tourism, Stanislaw Stefan Paszczyk, was quoted as saying that 4.5 million foreigners arrive in Poland every year. Other statistics show that the Polish border was crossed 271 million times in 1997, 175 million times by foreigners.

In addition to this, about 84 percent of the spending by foreigners was expenditure by visitors from neighboring countries, especially from Germany.

In many ways, Poland is still cheaper compared with the rest of Europe. Its rich terrain of mountains, crossed by rivers and lakes, and its abundant forests that account for 25 percent of the land, makes it very attractive to European visitors. This is increased by the familiarity of culture.

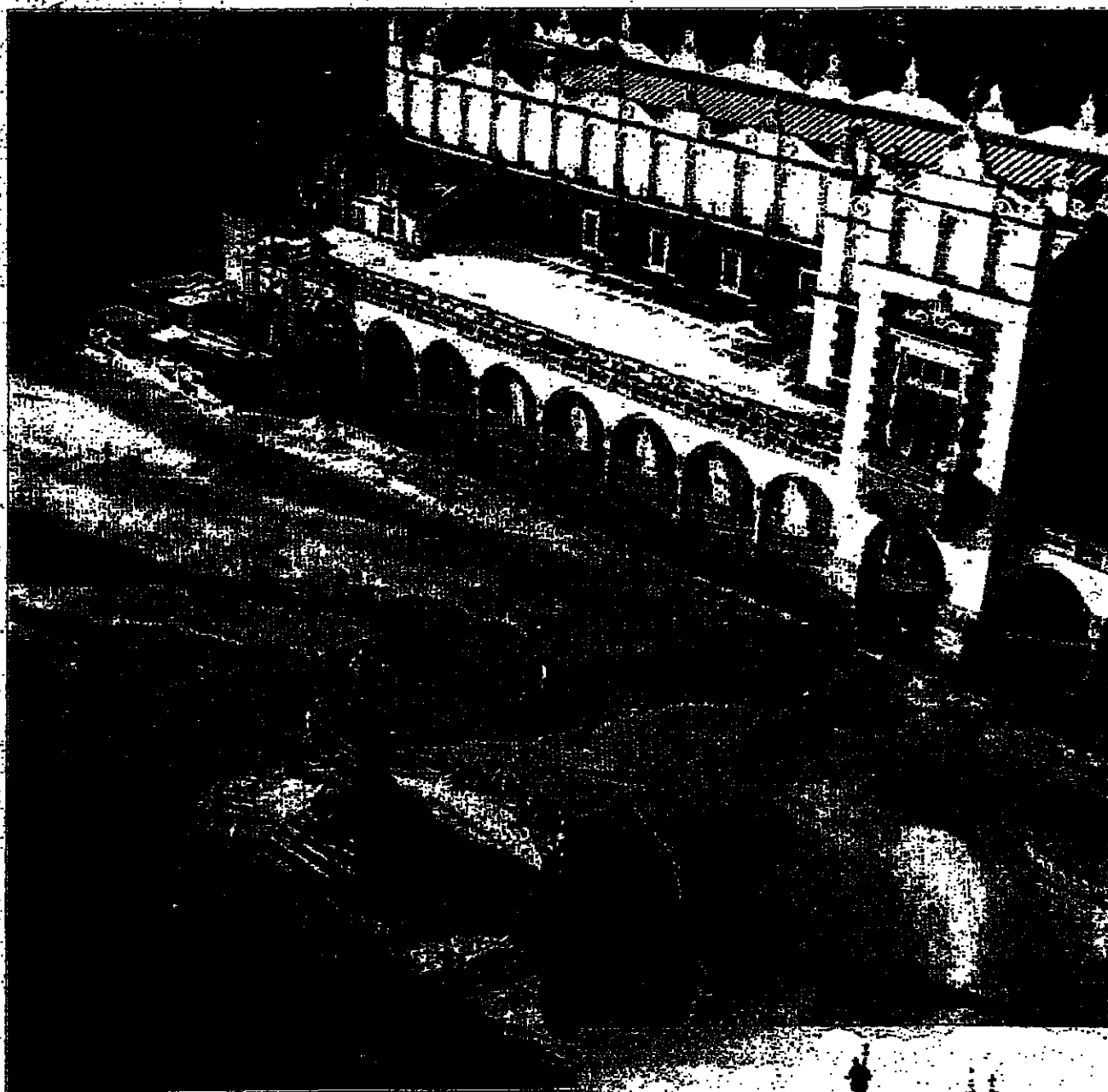
The land of Chopin and classical European music is only matched by the ancient homes of European history. This is one strong factor which is attracting additional tourists.

However, it is clear that the tourist industry in Poland is enthused by the cross-border movements.

Spending per each foreign visitor in 1997 averaged at \$203. On the other hand, average daily spending by foreigners was \$36. In addition to this, there is strong evidence of an increase in one-day trips.

Foreigners on one-day trips, mainly small traders or on shopping trips, spend on average \$68.

There is a great deal of potential for further development in Poland's tourism



An example of Poland's architectural heritage

industry. Mr Paszczyk says that his office is aiming to up-market the services for foreign tourists. These include water sports, hitch-hiking, horse-riding, gliding, cycling, skiing, hunting, camping and canoeing.

The president adds that, "Poland has a long history of active tourism, like walking excursions for example, which allows you to visit interesting places, whilst strengthening and enriching the human body."

Health tourism will also be a center of focus. "Poland has been known for years as the country of health resorts. We have 40 health resorts, as well as a number of climatic health resorts," Mr Paszczyk says.

"Our resorts are under special ecological protection. Polish resorts must meet home and foreign regulations, and are equipped with all types of facilities, like physiotherapy, mineral water drinking facilities, clinics, spas and spa parks."



A view of the old town of Warsaw

Thumbs up from world forecasters

SHE IS now being described as an Eastern European Tiger. International institutions and market analysts are giving her the thumbs up, both for its economic performance and political liberalism.

Poland has come a long way since it started on the road to economic transformation in 1992. The World Bank, the ERBD and the OECD are all highly impressed with the performance of the Polish economy, especially over the last few years. They stress that Poland is a unique Central and Eastern European country, that has recorded steady growth rates.

Such views are based on favorable assessments, given by international rating agencies such as the Moody's Investors Service.

In one of their reports, they state that, "As a trading partner and a country for further investments, Poland has a very good geographical location due to her Eastern and Western neighbors."

Moody's, which is a renowned agency that evaluates the credit credibility of different countries for investors,

states that unlike in other countries of the region, the privatization process was preceded by well thought-out plans to improve the economic buoyancy of firms in the country.

Work effectiveness, profita-

Central and Eastern Europe. Moody states that this is because the Polish model unites western experience in management and the knowledge of local firms.

This means the focus on ownership, supervision, profitability and a keen eye on restructuring.

The OECD is equally pleased. It positively assessed the national income growth per citizen, the reform of the pension system and the increase in investments.

Today, Poland, which has an annual per capita income of \$3010, ranks eighth among 25 countries in that region, according to the World Bank.

The positive economic developments are due to the political stability, the decrease in fiscal burdens, and the privatization process which have been judiciously followed over the last seven years.

The World Bank says that Poland will continue to experience the biggest growth rates—averaging 6 percent—in Eastern Europe.

This will signal further falls in inflation, unemployment and an increase in productivity. International experts argue that this is good news for Poland, as it prepares to join the European Union and the NATO.



05.11.1998

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'Grains, Greens' from maven of Mediterranean cooking

By Sylvia Carter

NEW YORK—Paula Wolfert's newest book, "Mediterranean Grains and Greens," bristles with bookmarks that flag recipes I want to try. Turkish griddle bread stuffed with green garlic; Cretan "scarf" pies with wild greens; sauteed black Tuscan kale with garlicky white beans; and an Egyptian "Alexandria Quarter" of rice, brown lentils, pan crisped pasta and browned onions. Years ago, when I wanted to learn how to make Moroccan food, with its deep, exotic flavors, I became a disciple of Wolfert's book, "Cooking with the Good Food From Morocco." Nobody has written with more authority and passion about that kind of food, though the book was published 25 years ago. In the latest book (\$27.50, HarperCollins), Wolfert said, "I put in everything that was full of wonderment to me. Because this book covers the Mediterranean, not just one country, I can pick and choose" recipes, she said over breakfast in Manhattan. Her approach in the book "can be quirky."

Wolfert, who travels from her home in California to remote places in search of grass-roots cooking, said there are some recipes in the book that "nobody has ever explained," such as how to roll your own couscous out of semolina grain.

If Wolfert had not documented the custom of "apron greens," gathered in apron pockets that have three compartments, would we know of it? The pockets are for "sweet" greens, "bitter" greens and, perhaps, wild mushrooms.

Wolfert's enthusiasm inspires. It is tempting to sew such an apron and set out to forage for greens. Realistically, however, commonly available greens such as watercress, Swiss chard and mesclun mix, available prepackaged in some

supermarkets, may be substituted if you can't find mallow or corn poppy. (The book includes an excellent glossary on unusual greens and many mail-order sources.)

Her research does not always pan out, and she writes about that, too. In an open-air restaurant along the Turkish Black Sea coast in the town of Giresun, Wolfert discovered "a corn bread unlike any I'd ever eaten in my life." To make it, very milky corn is toasted and dried for eight hours, to ready the grain to accept enough water for dough. Wolfert tried making the bread with farmers' market corn, then with toasted dried corn, and finally with Mexican dried corn called "chascas" or "chicos." "I feel bad," she writes, "for failing to reproduce the best corn bread I ever ate."

Oh, well, there's always another Black Sea recipe—the one for cornmeal wafers baked on collard greens, say.

And there are simple yet delicious-sounding ideas such as "the best way I know" to prepare onions, "learned from an Israeli Arab." Diced onions are cooked with a little water and oil in a covered skillet until limp; then the skillet is transferred, uncovered, to a medium oven, to cook for three hours with occasional stirring until the onion turns reddish brown. At the end, recoop the oil by tilting the pan and shoving the onions up away from the oil with a slotted spoon. The oil goes toward the heat and the onions absorb far less than they.

On the other hand, carnaroli rice, best for risotto, likely is not available in your neighborhood supermarket. Wolfert is mindful of the fact that mail-ordering unusual ingredients is not for everyone. "An adventure cost," she said.

After breakfast, we repaired to Kalustyan, a splendid source of all manner of ingredients for Middle Eastern and Medi-

terranean cooking.

There, I fell under Wolfert's spell and bought a set of sieves she thought would be ideal for rolling couscous. I spotted "gobindovog," "the world's smallest rice," before she did. Would the shopkeepers, who know her well and even offered us tea, have shown me the best-quality Iranian saffron (\$55 an ounce) had I not been with such a personage?

Such rice and such saffron is hard to find. Yet the dishes Wolfert makes are earthy and satisfying, not pretentious. In fact, Wolfert pokes fun at "gastro porn" in which "the acidity of this is balanced by the sweetness of that."

In her book, she mentions health and nutrition just once, reporting that Dr. Serge Renaud of "French paradox" fame believes that the wild greens eaten by Cretan snails may be what makes them so rich in healthful omega-3 fatty acids. To write of nutrition would be "a scold," Wolfert said. She is a romantic, a food adventurer. (It is true that her blood level for triglycerides was 300 when she embarked on the book, and it is now 87. It must have something to do with greens, grains and olive oil, she surmises.)

After Kalustyan, we stopped at the Union Square Greenmarket where Wolfert showed me Sicilian squash tendrils.

Earlier, Wolfert had said she continues a Moroccan custom. "When I meet a woman," she said, "I kiss her on both cheeks and touch my heart. That is the language of sisterhood." At the Greenmarket, we parted. Wolfert gave me a warm hug, kissed both cheeks and touched her heart. Will I roll my own couscous? I might.

LA Times-Washington Post News Service



A Savory dish of 'dragged' greens with potato, garlic, peperoncino and rosemary

Grab your 'Dosa' while it's hot

by Barbara Hansen

range. California's USA today one people serve, people on Sunday brunch. Smita Salgaonkar serves "dosas." They're pancakes, south Indian style. Instead of butter, syrup or fruit, dosas are often accompanied by coconut chutney and sambar, a stewy lentil and vegetable mixture. They are thin like crepes, but crisp and large. Sometimes they are filled with spiced potatoes.

And instead of flour and eggs, the batter is based on finely ground rice and lentils. Dosas must be eaten hot off the griddle, so when Salgaonkar stages a dosa brunch at her home in Orange, south-east of Los Angeles, she invites only a handful of guests.

Because good dosas are hard to find outside India, Salgaonkar's invitations are prized. She has not only mastered the dosa but also has added touches of her own that make it even more appealing.

For example, rather than the usual plain coconut chutney, she has come up with a luscious pale green mixture that contains yogurt, cilantro, peanuts and three kinds of fried "dal" (lentils) in addition to coconut. "I improvised it," she says.

Dosas originated in southern India but have spread to other parts of India, including Salgaonkar's home city, Mumbai (Bombay). Salgaonkar learned dosa making from her mother, Nisha Sathaye, an artist living in Mumbai. Her mother's spe-



One of the pleasures of a dosa party is being surrounded by family and friends

cial touch is adding "moong dal" to the batter, which usually includes just small pale ivory "urad dal" and rice. The idea was to make the dosas more nutritious. It also makes them delicious.

On a recent Sunday, close relatives and a few friends gathered at the Salgaonkar home to indulge in this treat. As the first guests arrive, they snack on "chevda," a spicy mixture that in India usually involves crisp fried lentils and dough strands made from chickpea

flour. Salgaonkar's Southern California variation substitutes American cereals, Spanish peanuts and shoestring potatoes for the usual components.

Brunch begins with an appetizer, meat-filled "samosas." Here too, Salgaonkar's creativity comes into play. Instead of conventional samosa dough, she uses puff pastry, which she forms into triangles filled with spiced ground pork. After baking these until crisp, she passes them to guests to eat with date and tamarind chutney. "I call

them samosas," she says, "but they're really pseudo-samosas."

Now Salgaonkar starts the dosas. She spoons a bit of batter into a large nonstick skillet and swirls it into an even circle with the back of the spoon. In one sense, the procedure is the same as for making French crepes.

"The first one is always a test," Salgaonkar says, laughing, as the dosa bakes. Cooks. Nevertheless, she produces a beautiful, perfectly round, thin

dosa on the first try.

Unlike pancakes, dosas are not flipped; they cook on one side only. As the batter begins to firm, Salgaonkar sprinkles oil lightly around the edges. "I've tried making them without oil," she explains, "but they get too dry."

When a dosa is almost done, she spoons potato filling down the center and folds each side over the top. The potatoes are seasoned with turmeric, which turns them bright yellow, and mixed with moong dal (mung beans), green chiles, curry leaves and mustard seeds.

Cooking dosas appears simple, but a few tricks are involved. The dough must be swirled quickly and evenly before it sets to form a smooth circle. If not enough batter is added, the dosa will be ragged and unsealable.

Although dosas must be cooked just before serving, most of the work takes place in advance. The lentils and rice are soaked separately overnight. The next day, they are ground with water and combined into a batter. Salgaonkar places the batter in a sunny window to ferment all day, then stores it in the refrigerator until the next day.

Salgaonkar's mother sends her own blend of spices for the lentil accompaniment, "sambar." Sambar masala, however, is available in Indian shops.

While Salgaonkar cooks, Hindi film tunes play on the stereo, and her husband, Jagdish, pours wine. This touch is strictly Californian. In India, the beverage choice might be tea, coffee, water or juice.

With the dosas, he poured first a Chardonnay from California, then an Australian Semillon-Chardonnay blend. The fruitier Australian wine emerged as the better match, and Jagdish quickly dubbed it "special dosa wine."

After the dosas came dessert, yet another of Salgaonkar's inventions: ice cream flavored with rose syrup, saffron, pistachios and cardamom. And before departing, guests sipped cardamom-scented Indian "chai" (tea).

The Salgaonkars run a busy household. She is marketing manager for a health care company, and he is an environmental consulting engineer. Parents of two daughters, they entertain frequently and give dosa parties several times a year.

When they were married 15 years ago, Smita Salgaonkar did not know how to cook. "Absolutely zero," says her husband proudly. That has certainly changed. Now he prefers not to go out to Indian restaurants. As he puts it, "I just eat dosas here."

Making a Dodge dart of a dish delicious

By Russ Parsons

SOME DISHES are Rolls-Royces, rich and elegant. Some dishes are Maseratis, lean and fast and begging for trouble. Stuffed zucchini is a Dodge Dart. Relentlessly unfashionable yet undeniably useful, stuffed zucchini is a dish that gets no respect from anyone except those with too many squash on their hands. But at this time of year, who doesn't fit that description?

On vacation in Italy this summer, I ate at a farmhouse restaurant the first night after the owner's August break. The appetizer? Stuffed zucchini. (Granted, these were distinctly post-modern stuffed zucchini: paper-thin slices from what must have been a real monster, steamed and stuffed with goat cheese like a ravioli, then gratinated with a little pecorino.)

My first thought was this: "Where did they find zucchini this big?" Then I remembered all those summers I'd come back from a week or two away to be greeted by a garden bountiful with what looked like green baseball bats. I guess it happens in Italy too.

When it does, your options are limited. You can stick them in brown paper bags and sneak them onto your neighbor's porch. You can try to peddle them as the latest in self-defense technology. Or you can stuff them.

What do you stuff them with? Well, what have you got? Stuffed vegetables are endlessly flexible and endlessly forgiving.

No matter what the filling, you wind up with something that not only tastes good but is comforting in a way that is unique to home cooking. It gives you the satisfaction of having fed people and fed



Stuffed Zucchini, a comforting bit of everyday magic

them well—on little more than rejects and leftovers.

Richard Olney, intimately familiar with making something from nothing, pretty well sums it up in "Simple French Food" (Atheneum, 1974): "Recipes for stuffed vegetables should not be taken too seriously—at least insofar as the ingredients for the fillings are concerned; vegetables may be stuffed with practically anything, and, if a bit of common sense is brought to the composition, they cannot help being good."

Leftover roast, boiled or stewed meats or poultry often find their way, chopped, into these stuffings. Stock meats, although most of their goodness has been drained from them, may be ground or finely chopped—revivified by a larger than usual dose of herbs and a pinch of cayenne, they always

provide an absolutely respectable base.

"Something allusive always gives a spark of life; soaked, squeezed bread, pre-cooked rice, leftover mashed potatoes or chopped leftover pasta will lend lightness and consistency; egg is for binding and cheese both for rapid relief and textural coherence."

A little meat, a little cheese, some rice or bread to stretch it out, certainly a little flesh from straw. After all, anyone can take perfect ingredients and turn them into dinner. That's no trick. The magic is making a Dodge Dart of a dish delicious.



You cook the dosa on only one side, then fill it.

39.11.1998



UNESCO celebrates world event

HER ROYAL Highness Princess Haya deputized for Her Majesty Queen Noor during the International celebrations for UNESCO that were held in the German city of Neus, Sunday. Accompanying Princess Haya were the Chief Chamberlain, HRH Prince Raad Bin Zaid and HRH Princess Majada Raad. Representatives from 42 countries also attended the event, which was organized for women.

Princess Haya (left), Mrs Suha Arafat, (center) and the Special UNESCO Ambassador.



Zulfa Al Sa'di The legend continues

By Kofi Attah
Special to The Star

"FIFTY YEARS on the road of hope and aspiration, yet the way remains unknown. Once a hopeful conqueror but more often the conquered." This is the ringing poetic message the 18 inspiring paintings by the late legendary Palestinian painter, presently hanging at Darat Al Funun seek to convey. If the whole exhibition were to be a book, 50 years after, Palestinians may still be reading only the first page. The exhibition of Zulfa Al Sa'di (1910-1988)—in the blue house—is part of the 'Homage to Jerusalem', a sort of review of events in Jerusalem and Palestine over the past 50 years.

A collection of paintings depict historical figures, still life and everyday activities in Palestine, from the time of Sharif Hussein Bin Ali, the great grandfather of His Majesty King Hussein—and includes portraits of King Faisal I of Syria, painted in 1918, and Omar Al Mukhtar, the Libyan revolutionary. The 18 paintings are some of the artist's works that have been kept in trust with artist Ismail Shammout. They are waiting the birth of the Palestinian museum of plastic art to be established in Jerusalem—the future capital of Palestine.

Al Sa'di's works capture the sentiments of the moment, while at the same time lay the foundation for the future revolution in both the arts and politics. One of the remarkable achievements of her work is the emergence of the self-conscious characteristics and values that served

as the cornerstone for modern Palestinian art.

Though the basic notions of art may have changed over the 50 years, you can still see them in her works. Fighting Zionism comes out, glaringly in one piece of art.

Irrefutably, the fundamental ideology of her art forms the stepping stone for modern Palestinian arts. A variety of signs are fully identified among the present generation of Palestinian artists. Without destination, there will be no direction. Zulfa has given both destination and direction, with a well defined background. She was able to explore how art can be used as basis for a silent revolution and how a nation in search of its identity can be directed.

In the exhibition, Zulfa's obsession of depicting revolutionary figures—who had in one way or another altered the course of history—is clearly evident. Her works touch on comprehensible subjects. One thing that is apparent to all visitors, is the traditional nature of Zulfa's paintings. Not only in glittering hues, but with a mastery touch she recreates the art you will find in villages through out Palestine.

One particular example is the piece entitled 'To the Village Market.' She presented two Palestinian village boys carrying baskets of vegetables on their way to the market. Incorporating images and symbols from all periods of Palestinian history, she revealed the harmony and happiness that can be obtained from art. In one painting there is a bunch of blossoming flowers representing peace, serenity and the gift of nature.



In the inner hall, where paintings on still life are hung, nature appears more stylized. Her flowers, vegetables and fruits fully express the

textures of nature. This is seen clearly in her work depicting delicious grapes and apples beside some potted plants. Nature and still life seemed to be very important to Zulfa, but folkloric art—bringing Palestinian cultural heritage to the limelight—had also a place in her heart.

Most of these pictures like 'A Palestinian Cleric,' 'A Palestinian Old Man' and 'A Palestinian Village' suggest the notion of inspiration from heritage. The frequent use of local Palestinian images confirmed her allegiance to folkloric art.

In the outer hall, you will find the paintings of historical figures, which identifies her Palestinian origin. The collection hanging aesthetically, gives an insight of what happened in the Arab world a century ago. Any visitor with the potential to appreciate the artist's work is easily given the clue by the flamboyant colors.

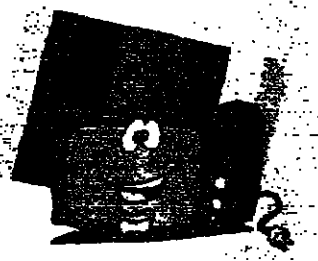
With the portraits of Sharif Hussein Bin Ali, King Faisal I, Saladin, Emperor Wilhelm II and the poet Ahmad Shawqi, she clearly wants her brush to portray all the important personalities of her time.

In a style that is both folkloric and revolutionary, Zulfa also touched on universal themes that combine spirituality, as demonstrated by her 'Farthest Mosque' painting. She felt that the mosque is the heart of every Palestinian, Arab and Muslim. It is a symbol of nobility, spirituality and mythology.

At the entrance to the halls is a copy of an award she received in 1933 during the first National Arab Exhibition in Jerusalem. The award was given to her by Halim Pasha, the grandfather of Suha Shoman.

"I am proud that my grandfather and people of the time recognized her talent, as she was a great Palestinian artist," says Mrs Shoman, the director of Darat Al Funun. The exhibition will continue until 12 November.

ON THE BOX



On Top!

EVERY FRIDAY evening at nine o'clock, viewers can watch one hour of fun, excitement and big prizes. All this is presented in the 'Towards the Top' game show, hosted by Rafe' Shaheen on the JTV Arabic Channel. 'Towards the Top' is designed for the youths in our society, with special attention to students in private universities. Most of the contestants—who are supposed to be the pride and delight of their families—tend to have a little too much fun, so much so, that they fail to answer most of the hosts' questions.

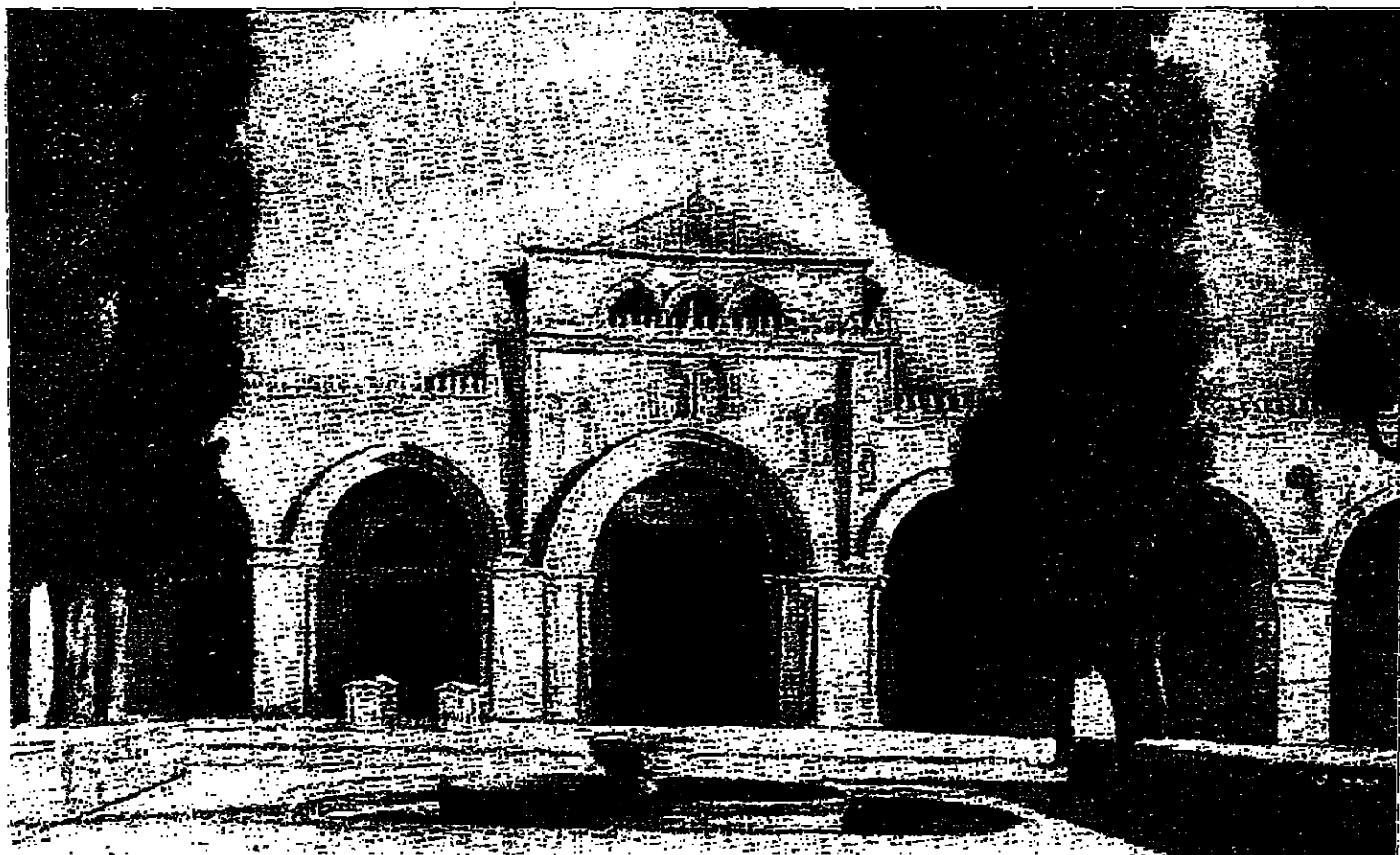
The idea of the program is good, as it offers interesting information to the contestants and the audience. Most of the questions are concerned with history, literature and art, with special focus on the Arab world. It takes us back to the days of our great scientists, artists and linguists, and refreshes the information the contestants learn at school, especially regarding Arabic grammar.

The mature viewers would expect these bright university students to answer these questions, as all of them should know grammar having learnt it at school. Yet, surprise, surprise, they do not have a clue, and resort to guessing.

How can we expect these students to be our hope for the future, if they no so little about our past and heritage. For a nation to have a success, it should know its past. This is something that is sadly missing in this day and age. To be fair however, there are students on the show who are bright and intelligent, but they are few compared to the majority, who are only there for the fun.

Young people should have fun and not be burdened at such a young age, but they should be taught to, at least, have some responsibility and respect for the lifestyle of other sectors of society, especially as Amman society is made up of different localities and nationalities. Unfortunately, there are questions in the program which may allow the more spirited students, all in the interest of humor of course, to make fun of different regional accents for example.

All viewers are familiar with the host, Mr Shaheen, from his program 'Think and Win', but they are not used to the new image which he is trying to project—choosing to be a little too humorous and to keep up with the contestants, rather than the other way round.



Buran Gallery: A gateway to contemporary Arab art

THE BURAN Gallery for Fine Art aims to boost and promote all art in the Arab world. The gallery, which serves as a unique window through which the works of various Arab artists can be seen, was created in November 1997 by a 40 year old dynamic Jordanian, Mr Ihsan George Bandak—a graduate of Illinois University, USA, who holds a MA in Fine Arts.

It's doors are open to all artists, both established and novice. With up to date facilities, the Buran Gallery of Fine Art has earned an excellent reputation regionally, and is a special repository for fine arts from the Middle East, especially from Iraq whose only window to the world is through Jordan.

The permanent collection of the gallery includes works by well known and unknown Jordanian, Iraqi and other Arab artists, and represents the creation of arts from many different generations,

comprising ceramics, photographs, oils, watercolors, prints, sculptures, and silk-screens.

Around 500 pieces can be seen at the moment; gathered from all over the region. It is a true gateway for unknown artists, who otherwise would not have had the opportunity to show their talents. This is especially so for Iraqi artists who are in many ways isolated from the rest of the Arab world.

Situated at a strategic and ever expanding corner of Sweifiya (6th circle), the gallery is accessible to both local and international artists, due to its location near to Queen Alia airport.

The gallery accommodates a new exhibition every month, and now houses an ever growing collection of art. The ground, first and second floors are used for the monthly exhibitions, whilst the 3rd floor serves as a classroom to teach art. At the moment, the class has ten

students who are learning to draw. Plans are underway to upgrade the teaching facilities, and to increase the number of students.

From a humble beginning, the Buran Gallery for Fine Art has become an important center of art, for Jordan and the Arab world. "We are selling the image of Jordan abroad, so we insist on quality always," said Mr Bandak.

The attitude of the gallery is depicted in its logo, which sees an art world, where both male and female artists share equality. The logo has the face of a woman. The name Buran is derived from an old Persian and Arabic word meaning 'the pretty one', and was used in times gone past to describe a beautiful woman. Today, the Buran Gallery of Fine Art still stands up for rights of female artists, and is a shining example to all the world.

K.A.



AGENDA

Exhibitions

■ An exhibition of master-works by the Spanish Contemporary Architecture continues until tomorrow (Friday) 6 November, at the Instituto Cervantes.

■ The Darat Al Funun, is currently showing numerous artworks by the Palestinian artists, Kamal Boudlata and the late Zulfa Al Sa'di. The exhibition, which also features photos by the Palestinian American photographer Saeed Nuseibeh, will last until 12 November.

■ A special two-day exhibition of candles will open at the Goethe Institut on 11 November. The exhibit, entitled 'Candles: They are of unique merit,' will feature the wax-made handicrafts of Kareem Abu Shakra and Ghaila Abu Shari.

■ Also on 11 November,

the Instituto Cervantes will open a new exhibition of watercolor paintings by the Jordanian female artist Mukarram Haghondouqa, at 6 pm. About 30 of her portraits of old houses and city venues will be shown on the exhibit, and will continue until 24 November.

Concert

■ The well known Spanish musician Begona Olavide will perform her special concert at the Darat Al Funun, Abdel Hameed Shoman. Olavide discovers the musical traditions of the Arab world, with the help from the Mudéjar Music Group. The concert will take place on 9 November, and is scheduled to begin at 7 pm.

Films

■ The American Center is showing the musical movie The Wizard of Oz, starring Judy Garland and Frank Morgan, today (Thursday) 5 November, at 5 pm.

The Star's GUIDE

Programs on JTV from 7-13 November

ENGLISH PROGRAMS

SATURDAY
3:00—Holy Koran
3:10—Animaniacs (Cartoon)
3:30—Clowning Around
4:00—Neighbors (Drama)
4:30—Peer Pressure (Doc.)
5:00—French Prog.
6:00—Wind at my back
7:00—News in French
7:15—French Prog.
7:30—News Headlines
7:35—Murphy Brown
8:00—Sirens
9:15—ABC of Democracy
10:00—News At Ten
10:30—Film
12:00—Twisted

SUNDAY
3:00—Holy Koran
3:10—Pink Panther (Cart.)
3:30—Pumpkin Patch
3:30—The Adventures of the Black Stallion
4:00—Discover The Wild Animals
4:30—Vid Kids
5:00—NBA
6:00—French Program
7:00—News in French
7:15—French Programs
7:30—News Headlines
7:35—The Brittas Empire
8:00—French Program
8:30—Renegade
9:05—Farming & Ecology
9:30—Behind the Scene
10:00—News in English
10:30—Veronica Clare
11:30—Doogie Howser

MONDAY
3:00—Holy Koran
3:10—Batman (Cartoon)
3:30—The Genie from Down Under (Drama)
4:00—Neighbors (Drama)
4:30—Last Frontiers (Doc.)
5:00—French Program
6:00—Wind At My Back



The Lions Kingdom on Tuesday at 5:00 pm.

TUESDAY
7:00—News in French
7:15—French Program
7:30—News Headlines
7:35—Parenthood
8:00—The Internet Cafe
8:30—Big Sky
9:10—Racoon
10:00—News At Ten
10:30—Veronica Clare

WEDNESDAY
3:00—Holy Koran

Amman cinemas

- Philadelphia I (Tel: 4634149): The Island of Dr Moreau
- Philadelphia II (Tel: 4634149): Queen Margot
- Galleria I (Tel: 079 33430): Saccidi At The American University (Arabic)
- Galleria II (Tel: 079 33430): 6 Days 7 Nights
- Plaza (Tel: 5699238): Saccidi At The American University (Arabic)
- Concord I (Tel: 5677420): Rasputin
- Concord II (Tel: 5677420): Up Close & Personal

3:10—The Adventures of Teddy Ruxpin
3:30—Halfway Across The Galaxy & Turn Left
4:30—Masters Of The Maze
5:00—French Program
6:15—Wind At My Back
7:00—News in French
7:15—French Program
7:30—News Headlines
7:35—Two Point Children
8:00—Envoys Special
8:30—Kung-Fu
9:10—Great Moments Of Science & Technology
9:30—Faces & Places
10:00—News At Ten
10:30—Chicago Hope
12:00—Bugs (Drama)

THURSDAY
3:00—Holy Koran
3:10—Superman (Cartoon)
3:30—Sliders (Drama)
4:00—Life On The Digital Edge
5:00—French Program
6:15—Sparks
7:00—News in French
7:15—French Prog.
7:30—News Headlines
7:35—Family Matters
8:00—Great Romances of the 20th Century
8:30—Dr Quinn Medicine Woman (Drama)
9:10—Oprah Winfrey
10:00—News At Ten
10:30—Film
12:00—The Boys (Comedy)

FRIDAY
3:00—Holy Koran
3:10—Swiss Family Robinson
3:30—Treasure Hunt
4:00—French Film
6:15—The Simpsons
7:00—News in French
7:15—French Prog.
7:30—News Headlines

7:35—Fresh Prince of Bel Air
8:00—Cinema, Cinema
8:30—Babylon 5
9:10—Everyman
10:00—News At Ten
10:30—The X Files (Drama)
11:10—The Halifax

PROGRAMMES EN FRAN AIS (SAMED)
17:00—Fant pas rêver
19:00—Le Journal
19:15—Magazine L'auf de Colomb

DIMANCHE
18:00—Bonne espérance
19:00—Le Journal
19:15—E-M6

LUNDI
17:00—Thalassie
19:00—Le Journal
19:15—Magazine scientifique

MARDI
18:00—Les coeurs brûlés
19:00—Le Journal
19:15—Fractales

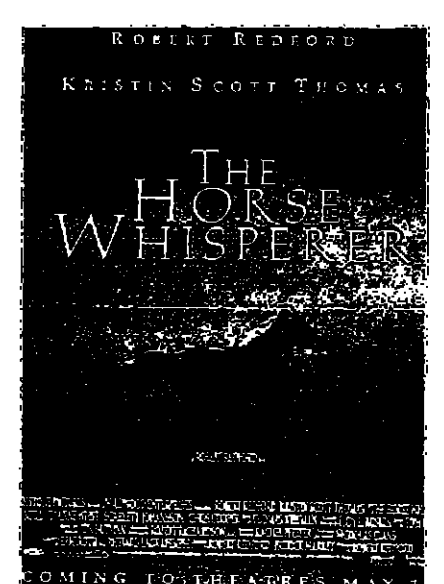
MERCREDI
17:00—Ushual
19:00—Le Journal
19:15—E-M6
20:00—Envoyé spécial

JEUDI
16:00—L'école des fans
19:00—Le Journal
19:15—Magazine L'auf de Colomb

VENREDI
18:15—Fort Boyard
19:00—Le Journal
19:15—Allô la Terre

Programs are subject to change by JTV

Top Corner



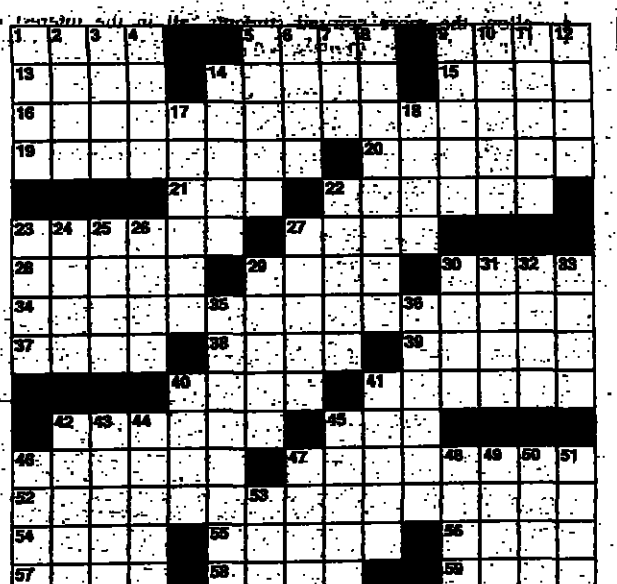
- ### Top 10 Tapes
- Flash Hour
 - Horse Whisperer
 - Dangerous Beauty
 - Sliding Doors
 - Snake Eyes
 - There Is Something About Mary
 - Blade
 - Rounders
 - The Mask Of Zorro
 - The Mighty

- ### Top 10 Original
- Titanic
 - Amistad
 - Desperate Measure
 - In And Out
 - Lost In Space
 - Seven Years In Tibet
 - Jackal
 - Fallen
 - The Game
 - Austin Powers

VIDEO PLAZA

4th Circle opposite Belgium Embassy, Tel. 5930054
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CROSSWORD PUZZLE



- ACROSS**
- 1 Sudden gust
 - 5 Enticed
 - 9 Twisted
 - 13 Verbal
 - 14 Columbus' birthplace
 - 15 Respecting
 - 16 Chops
 - 19 Class
 - 20 Monet or Monet
 - 21 Confirmed
 - 22 Knitting pattern
 - 23 Greece, to Plato
 - 27 Safe distance
 - 28 Be of use
 - 29 Malicious
 - 30 Beat it
 - 34 Spies
 - 37 Take a powder
 - 38 Group
 - 39 NY governor once
 - 40 Exceedingly
- DOWN**
- 1 Elbow
 - 2 Russian mountains
 - 3 Passenger
 - 4 Loss
 - 5 Respond to
 - 6 Banquet or
 - 7 Seal head
 - 8 Tropical tree
 - 9 Song
 - 10 "Well, Dark" (Hebrew lit)
 - 11 Hit the deck
 - 12 Gave temporarily
 - 14 Chromosome
 - 15 A content
 - 17 Median food
 - 18 Yen
 - 22 "doping with milk and honey"
 - 23 Mole
 - 24 Mastic
 - 25 Ask liquor to
 - 26 Compatible
 - 27 Arctic animal
 - 29 DC's Dec
 - 30 Ticket and
 - 31 Stinner down
 - 32 Zenith
 - 33 Bout results
 - 36 Greek region
 - 40 Gora, now After land and sea
 - 41 Goes bankrupt
 - 42 Nodded
 - 43 Scaffold
 - 44 Pipe type
 - 45 Some Europeans
 - 46 Supernatural creature
 - 47 Become
 - 48 Interfere
 - 49 Jung or Sagen
 - 49 Vessel
 - 49 Fuss
 - 50 Zeus' son
 - 51 RBT or CFI
 - 52 Pronoun

—THIS WEEK'S— HOROSCOPE

By Linda Black

Weekly Tip: Anxiety levels could be high as the moon transits Aries. It's in an awkward position to the sun in Scorpio, which could lead to lively and passionate debates.

Aries (March 21-April 19). Put in the extra effort to hold your temper. Although you're itching to tell the truth, you don't need to tell it in anger. That could do more harm than good.

Taurus (April 20-May 20). Panic may be caused by another person's impatience. Be calm, but firm, especially if your partner is advising you to wait.

Gemini (May 21-June 21). Don't let yourself get all stirred up over a work-related conflict. If you go ahead and let your partner know how you feel, that ought to be enough.

Cancer (June 22-July 22). Anticipate agitation from higher up and maybe even an outburst of bad temper. Keep your head down, especially if controversial subjects are being discussed.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22). Let a friend break through your crusty exterior and give you a little information. You wouldn't have thought of this ordinarily, because you had your mind made up.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You're worried about money but don't get into a panic. By putting a method you already know into effect, you'll be able to shut off a leak and protect your resources.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). A rather surprising confrontation could lead to a new friendship. A rule you don't want to obey could turn out to be good for you.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Put up with an irritating co-worker. He or she may have a couple of good points, so don't throw those out with generalizations.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You'd rather goof off than work. Use your restlessness to push yourself to try something you've been thinking about.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You're still cleaning up the mess, but that's OK. Make some changes you've been thinking about while you're at it.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You're especially intelligent and that's good. You'll need the extra brainpower and quick wit to outmaneuver a tough competitor.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20). Financial worries spur you to study the issues. There's something you can do to improve your lot in life, but you won't get there by accident.

If You're Having a Birthday This Week: Your work takes precedence this year. It's hectic, but the experience is invaluable.

Bridge

Perfect Teamwork
By Omar Sharif and Tannah Hirsch

East-West vulnerable. East deals.

NORTH
♦ AK 9 8 3
♥ Q 8
♦ 8 6 2
♣ A K Q

EAST
♦ J 7 5
♥ J 10 3
♦ K J 5
♣ 10 8 5 2

SOUTH
♦ 10 6 2
♥ K 5 4
♦ A 9 7 4 3
♣ J 7

The bidding:
East: Pass
South: Pass
West: Pass
North: Pass
Pass: 2S
Pass: 3NT
Pass: Pass

Opening lead: Six of ♠

Defense is a cooperative effort. East-West combined well to defeat a reasonable three no trump contract on this deal from a major national event.

By partnership agreement, North's bid of three spades was invitational, describing a balanced hand of 18-19 points and five spades. South chose well in electing to play three no trump rather than four spades. At the suit contract declarer had four sure losers virtually no matter what the defense did.

West led a fourth-best heart against three no trump. Declarer played the queen from dummy and East unblocked the ten. Declarer had no safe way to get to hand to lead a spade toward dummy in an attempt to force West to win a spade trick, so the king of spades was led. Now West made sure of the contract's defeat by jettisoning the queen. Declarer could do no better than concede a spade trick to East, and the jack of hearts through the king assured the defenders of five tricks — four hearts and a spade.

Observe that, had East not played a heart honor at trick one, declarer could cover with the king on the second round of hearts to block the suit. And failure by West to jettison the queen of spades immediately would give declarer the option of leading a low spade from dummy at trick three to sneak home.

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Jumble

Unscramble these four words, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

SIGUE
□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □
LULBY
□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □
TRACCI
□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □
LAYDED
□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

Answer: WITH

Answer: HOW THE ARMY DENTIST IMPROVED HIS TECHNIQUE

Words of Wisdom

Kind thoughts are more valuable than material gifts because they cannot be purchased.

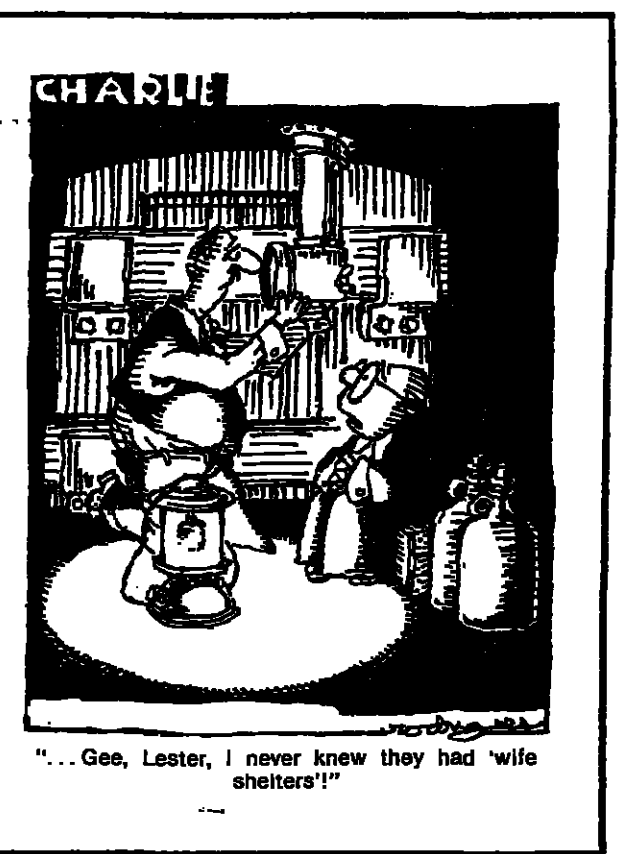
Admitting that you don't know everything isn't a weakness — it's called telling the truth.

Riding a tiger is exhilarating, but the dismount is dangerous.

The oldest flames seem to burn the longest.

If you ever have a hard time putting up with others' faults, think about how they manage to put up with yours.

Worry never lessens tomorrow's sorrows, but it lessens our pleasure in today.



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Le Jourdain

Supplément en français du Star

Les Etats-Unis consultent leurs alliés sur la réponse à apporter à Bagdad

Le secrétaire à la Défense américain William Cohen (voir photo) est arrivé mercredi à Koweït venant de Ryad, où il a affirmé avoir recueilli «le soutien nécessaire» pour faire face à la nouvelle crise avec l'Irak. M. Cohen a évoqué mardi avec le roi Fahd d'Arabie saoudite et le prince héritier Abdallah ben Abdel Aziz, des réponses possibles au dernier défi lancé par l'Irak au Conseil de sécurité, selon le Pentagone. Après ces entretiens, «le secrétaire Cohen est confiant dans le fait que les Etats-Unis auront le soutien dont ils ont besoin pour prendre des mesures appropriées pour soutenir l'ONU», a déclaré le porte-parole du Pentagone. Les Etats-Unis privilégient pour le moment l'option diplomatique mais n'ont pas exclu l'usage de la force pour contraindre Bagdad à revenir sur son refus de coopérer avec la Commission spéciale de l'ONU (UNSCOM) chargée de le désarmer. Selon des diplomates à Ryad, les dirigeants saoudiens ont déclaré à M. Cohen qu'ils étaient favorables à «une solution diplomatique» pour résoudre la crise. L'Arabie, ont-ils ajouté, estime nécessaire d'exercer des «pressions politiques» sur l'Irak pour qu'il respecte son accord conclu en février avec le secrétaire général de l'ONU Kofi Annan pour désamorcer la précédente crise sur le désarmement. Les Etats-Unis n'avaient pas alors obtenu l'appui des pays arabes du Golfe pour une action militaire contre l'Irak et l'Arabie saoudite leur avait refusé l'utilisation de ses bases.



Éclaboussures

Chauffards!

N'hésitez pas à vous en aller sur les routes jordaniennes, si vous voulez courir à votre ruine: un chauffard maniaque de vitesse pourrait bien vous en faire cadeau. Cela n'est pas une information à faire circuler, c'est simplement une réalité du trafic en Jordanie. L'usage avec le respect du code de la route sont deux qualités fondamentales qui font défaut à la majorité des titulaires d'un permis de conduire jordanien. Le langage chiffré de l'Institut jordanien de la circulation (IJT) en est le meilleur témoin. En 1997, plus de 39.000 accidents ont provoqué la mort de cinq cents personnes et en ont blessées 16.000 autres. Et plus de 5% des accidents sont dus à une vitesse excessive. Pire: les enfants de moins de dix ans représentent la tranche d'âge la plus touchée. Ils sont cent dix à avoir trouvé la mort en 1997. Cette année, la situation ne devrait guère s'améliorer: les chiffres provisoires de l'IJT sont accablants. Déjà 27.965 accidents, 329 morts et 450 blessés sur les huit premiers mois de l'année: une horreur.

La coupe est pleine. Il ne faut guère qu'un jour pour que s'oublie l'abomination d'un accident meurtrier et que la même irresponsabilité ne recommence. Le pied reste au plancher, les voitures roulent toujours à tombeau ouvert. Mais la vitesse n'est pas seule en cause et les piétons ont aussi leur part de responsabilité. Ils reprochent aux automobilistes leur inconscience tout en ne prenant pas eux-mêmes les plus élémentaires mesures de sécurité. En 1997, selon l'IJT, plus de 4% des accidents ont été directement liés aux piétons qui traversent la chaussée sans utiliser les passages sans utiliser les passages qui leur sont réservés. Les enfants qui jouent dans la rue sont également les victimes privilégiées des chauffards: l'année dernière, près de 3000 accidents ont eu lieu entre 13h et 14h, l'heure de la sortie des écoles. Plus que jamais, une vaste opération de prévention et de responsabilisation est nécessaire dans les écoles car les campagnes d'informations en place semblent totalement inopérantes. Au besoin, des mesures drastiques sont peut-être à prendre, comme le port obligatoire de la ceinture de sécurité, ou même la création d'aires de jeux éloignées de la chaussée pour les enfants.

Et si chacun considère l'accident comme une catastrophe qui peut être évitée, et non comme un coup du hasard ou du destin, les choses ne peuvent que s'améliorer. Conduire peut être un délice, mais la vie est plus chère qu'un plaisir qui devient, de plus en plus, un danger.

Nahed Khloof

Vous voulez écrire en français?

Alors n'hésitez pas à collaborer à la rédaction du Jourdain.

Pour tout renseignement, contactez Stéphane Foucart au 5664153

Justice

Crise de l'eau : l'accusation

Plusieurs mois après les événements, trente pages d'acte d'accusation relèvent les responsabilités présumées et les causes réelles de la crise de l'eau. Huit fonctionnaires ont été inculpés, et le cas des trois anciens ministres de l'eau devrait être examiné prochainement.

Quelques mois après la crise de l'eau, les Jordaniens connaissent enfin les raisons et les responsables présumés de cette affaire qui a linéairement empoisonné la vie publique jordanienne. L'acte d'accusation publié la semaine dernière par Mohammed Harah'Cheh, le Procureur général de la Cour d'assises d'Amman, précise en effet ce que le public prenait, voilà tout juste quelques mois, pour de simples rumeurs.

Au terme des interrogatoires et du recueil des témoignages, Mohammed Harah'Cheh a inculpé huit fonctionnaires des services de l'eau de plusieurs crimes et délits: négligence, falsification de rapports, mensonge sur la nature de la marchandise, etc. Parmi eux, le secrétaire général de l'Autorité de l'eau et le directeur de la station d'épuration de Zay (près de Salt) qui aurait tenté, semble-t-il, de cacher les véritables causes de la pollution de l'eau.

Tout au long d'une trentaine de pages, l'acte d'accusation définit en neuf points les raisons de cette crise qui a, l'été dernier, plongé la population dans la panique de longues semaines durant.

Tout d'abord, l'acte d'accusation fait état d'une grande négligence dans le processus de prise de décisions, même en cas d'urgence, à toujours été très centralisé. En l'occurrence, il semble que l'un des responsables de la station d'épuration des eaux de Zay, ait concentré tout le pouvoir décisionnel. Prolongeant les conclusions du rapport de la Commission d'enquête formée en août dernier, l'acte d'accusation souligne l'irresponsabilité des trois ministres de l'eau qui se sont suc-

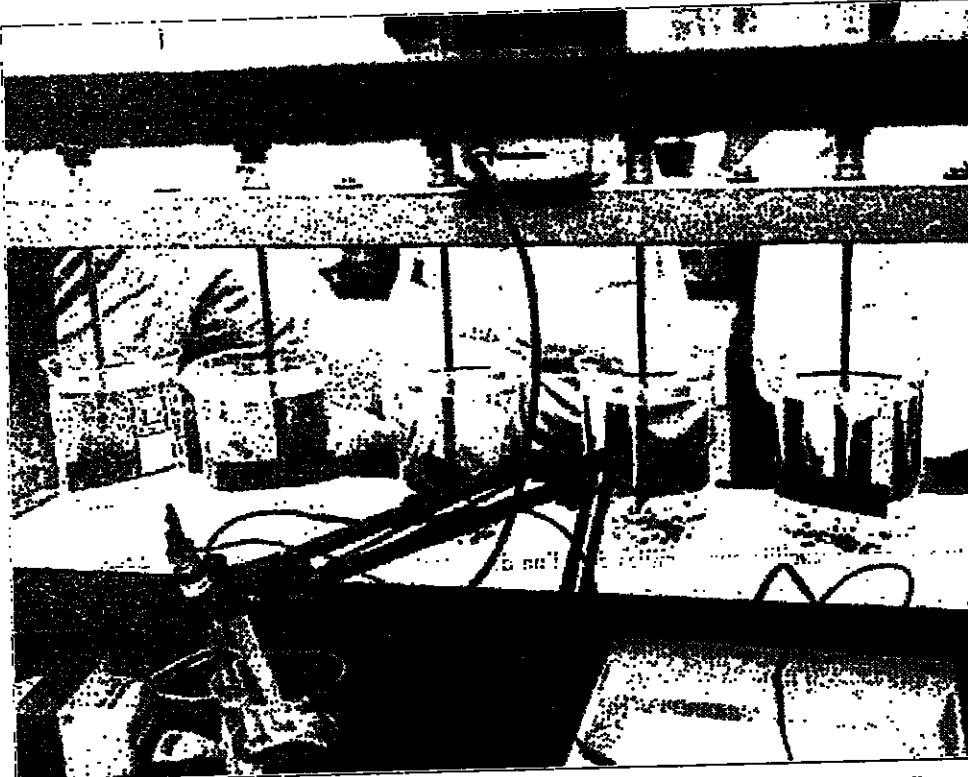
cédés depuis octobre 1994 jusqu'à l'apparition du problème. Saleh Ircheidat, Samir Qawar et Munzer Haddadine en prennent pour leur grade. Après la signature des accords de paix avec Israël, ces différents ministres n'auraient en effet pas pris les mesures nécessaires pour traiter les éléments organiques provenant de l'eau du lac de Tibériade. De plus, les intéressés n'ont jamais mis en place un système dit de «sonnette d'alarme» dans les différentes stations d'épuration qui aurait pu, en cas de problème, donner l'alerte en 48 heures et

permettre ainsi de résoudre, dans des délais très brefs, les éventuels problèmes survenus. La décision de mettre en place un tel dispositif a depuis été prise et le système entrera en fonction dès avril prochain.

L'enquête a également révélé le très faible niveau de formation des techniciens travaillant à la station de Zay. Ces derniers n'ont en effet jamais pu profiter de stages de formation pour remettre à jour leurs compétences et augmenter leur niveau de connaissance. Parallèlement à cela, l'absence totale de techniciens spécialisés dans le do-

maine de la microbiologie et l'étude de l'eau a été relevée par le rapport. En d'autres termes, pour les algues, microbes et autres agents pathogènes, la voie était laissée libre. Le dernier technicien compétent en la matière avait été transféré en 1986 et n'avait jamais été remplacé.

Mais il y a pire. Nombre de personnes ont, semble-t-il, été nommées à des postes qui ne correspondaient nullement à leur formation. On a ainsi découvert que le directeur de la station de Zay, Mohammed Abu Taha, est un



La station de Zay, durablement incriminée par le rapport de l'enquête: matériel obsolète et personnel technique peu qualifié.

Traité israélo-jordanien

Quatre ans d'une paix fantôme

Depuis la paix, en 1994, avec Israël, les choses ont-elles réellement changé pour les Jordaniens? Les avantages politiques conférés par la signature du traité n'occultent ni les divergences qui existent encore entre les deux états, ni l'absence de concrétisation matérielle d'une paix que d'aucuns qualifient de purement formelle.

Le quatrième anniversaire de la signature de la paix entre Israël et la Jordanie est passé, tant sur le plan officiel que du point de vue de la rue, totalement inaperçu. Seules exceptions à ce constat: une conférence de presse donnée par l'Ambassadeur israélien à Amman, au cours de laquelle il a exprimé sa

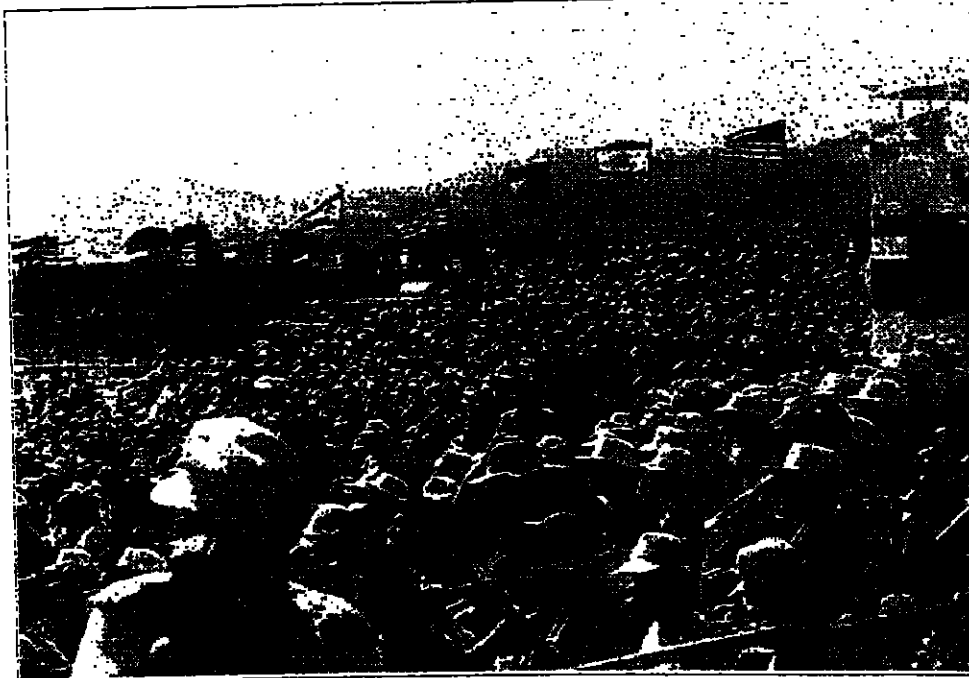
satisfaction des relations entre les deux pays, et un colloque organisé par un centre d'études jordanien, destiné à dresser en quelque sorte un bilan de ces quatre années de paix. L'heure ne fut pas, dans ce cas, aux réjouissances: il fut plutôt question de savoir si le traité signé était réellement un traité de paix, ou s'il s'agissait plutôt

d'un traité de «conciliation». De même fut soulevée la question de savoir si la Jordanie avait eu réellement le choix de cette paix, ou si elle lui avait été «en quelque sorte» imposée. Les participants ont néanmoins reconnu que le traité avait eu cet avantage de voir reconnues par l'Etat hébreu les frontières de la Jordanie, exception faite des territoires occupés. Mais, soulignant toutefois les avantages politiques du traité, les intellectuels présents ont souligné l'absence de conséquences sur la vie quotidienne des jordaniens.

Le drapeau israélien brûlé

Quant à la troisième exception, elle n'est guère marquée par la joie et l'enthousiasme: le jour de l'anniversaire de la paix, des étudiants de l'Université de Muta, dans le sud, ont brûlé le drapeau israélien. A part ces trois événements de l'actualité jordanienne, rien.

De quoi est donc faite cette paix? Certes, les dirigeants des deux pays se rencontrent fréquemment, mais les résultats concrets se font attendre et, sur le terrain, rien ou presque ne vient matérialiser les «accords» passés de part et d'autre du Jourdain. Qu'il s'agisse des échanges commerciaux, de la coopération dans les domaines de l'eau, de l'énergie, du tourisme, du transport, de l'agriculture, ou même de la simple application des clauses



A Wadi Araba, pour la cérémonie de signature de paix, une foule abondante s'était déplacée de Palestine, de Jordanie, d'Israël.

politiques du traité, les entraves du côté israélien ont été - et sont toujours - presque systématiques. Beaucoup d'hommes d'affaires jordaniens, désireux de pouvoir commercer librement avec Israël, ne cachent d'ailleurs pas leur désespoir quant à «cette paix qui n'a pas apporté grand chose». Les autorités israéliennes freinent en effet des quatre fers dès qu'il s'agit de rendre possibles des échanges commerciaux

entre la Jordanie et Israël, ou même les territoires administrés par l'Autorité palestinienne. Ces échanges n'ont ainsi pas dépassé les 18 millions de dollars en 1997, et ce malgré la construction, en partenariat avec des hommes d'affaires jordaniens et le soutien des Etats-Unis, de plusieurs usines textiles dans le nord de la Jordanie. Mais, interrogés la semaine dernière par un grand quotidien jordanien sur le bilan

économique des quatre années de paix écoulées, des investisseurs à la bourse d'Amman n'ont toutefois pris aucun détour pour faire état de la situation: «la bourse n'a pas cueilli les fruits de la paix. Depuis la signature du traité, le cours des actions a perdu en moyenne 35%». Côté israélien, on met en avant les «accords» conclus avec le gouvernement jordanien pour établir de grands projets touristiques et

industriels. Mais ces «accords» restent généralement à l'état de projets, et n'aboutissent pas. De plus, le sentiment général de la population est que l'Etat hébreu n'a pas pleinement respecté les clauses de ce traité, qui était censé instaurer une nouvelle ère dans les rapports entre les Etats et les peuples de la région. En octobre de Khaled Mechal par deux agents israéliens des services spéciaux - soutenus par leur ambassade - en plein cœur d'Amman, avait provoqué l'émoi de la population jordanienne. Les deux agents, munis de faux passeports canadiens, avaient été arrêtés.

Une mise en garde jordanienne?

Quant au volet concernant le problème des réfugiés et celui de Jérusalem, le gouvernement israélien suit depuis quatre ans la tactique de la lenteur, de la tergiversation et du prolongement interminable des discussions sur des questions marginales ou secondaires. Par ailleurs, la réhabilitation d'un tunnel sous la mosquée Al-Aqsa a constitué une atteinte évidente à la position d'Amman par rapport à Jérusalem et plus particulièrement aux lieux saints islamiques. Enfin, la politique de colonisation des territoires occupés ne s'étant jamais démentie, la population jordanienne n'a accumulé que méfiance vis-à-vis des dirigeants israéliens.

Cependant, une mise en terre, le lendemain de l'anniversaire de la signature du traité, des dépouilles mortelles des quatre soldats jordaniens tombés en 1967 dans la défense de la ville sainte, a été organisée en grande pompe. Peut-être un moyen de rappeler à Israël que la Jordanie est toujours décidée à défendre son histoire et surtout les droits des Arabes et des Musulmans dans la ville que l'on dit la plus proche du ciel.

S.Sw.

The Star

Stadium

Edited by Abdul Hamid Addasi

Jordanian Football Association postpones the Premier League

By Abdul Hamid Addasi
Special to the Star

AFTER AN emergency session held last week, the disciplinary committee of Jordanian Football Association (JFA) announced the postponement of the Jordanian Premier League.

Earlier in the week, the disciplinary committee had recommended that a replay be made of the ill-fated match between Al-Faisali and Al-Qadissieh. Al-Faisali players walked off the pitch in protest when the match official ruled a goal offside in the 82nd minute. The goal would have given Al-Faisali the win, and a two-point lead in the league over rivals Al-Wihdat.

The disciplinary committee also decided to delete the names of two Al-Faisali representatives, Majed Al-Karsha and Jameel Al-Udwan, from the JFA records, and



HRH Prince Abdullah

fined the club 600 dinars for assaulting the referee. The JFA's intention to reply to the Al-Faisali-Al-Qadissieh match added fuel to the fire, as Al-Wihdat promptly withdrew from the league, claiming that the ruling was unfair and that

any team that walks off the pitch should be held liable for their actions. In a further development, Al-Qadissieh rejected the prospect of a replay with Al-Faisali, stating similar reasons.

In a press release, Al-Wihdat explained the JFA decision would only encourage teams and officials to beat up the referees.

As a result, sports analysts believe that the Jordanian Premier League will soon be canceled, because most clubs disagree with the JFA decision. The standard of refereeing has also led to much heated debate, and the clubs are saying that unless the matter is addressed there will be similar problems. The future of the Jordanian Football League will be at the forefront of a scheduled meeting between HRH Prince Abdullah Bin Al-Hussein, the President of the JFA, and his Vice-President Dr Saleh Ershadat.

Hamed dances way to unanimous decision over McCullough



ATLANTIC CITY, New Jersey—The biggest mouth in boxing since Muhammad Ali almost had to eat his words for the first time, but at the end of the fight he remained unbeaten.

WBO featherweight champion Prince Naseem Hamed, the boastful Brit with the 30-fight winning streak, couldn't make good on his promise to knock out Wayne McCullough in the third round, last Saturday.

He needed all 12 rounds to score a unanimous decision over the scrappy Irishman, who tagged him several times with hard rights, but could never knock him down or put him in serious danger.

"He was quite strong," Hamed

said. "I tried to knock him out in the third round. What can I say? He's got a hard head. He's Irish, you know."

Hamed danced and weaved his way to the victory, but was on the receiving end of more than a few boos because of his attitude. Judge John Stewart had it 118-110, judge Nelson Vazquez 117-111 and judge Clark Sammartino 116-112 for Hamed. The AP had Hamed winning 116-111.

A 5-1 favorite, he kept McCullough at bay with his bizarre tactics, but never knocked him down or seriously hurt him. In fact, Hamed (31-0) spent more time clowning than he did punching.

McCullough, of Belfast, Northern

Ireland, was the aggressor throughout, but he couldn't hurt Hamed either. Cheered on by the 1,000 flag-waving Irishmen who made the trip, he sustained some solid shots and connected on some of his own.

Hamed hit on 46 percent of his 742 punches, to 23 percent for McCullough, who threw 740, according to CompuBox Inc. punch statistics.

Hamed, 24, of Sheffield, England, promised an early finish to the "Fight Night" card at Convention Hall, but his prediction—a knockout at 2:28 of the third round—never happened. "It was willed by God to go 12 rounds and it went 12 rounds," Hamed said. "I'm still the best light-

weight in the world. He took a beating. Look at his face and look at mine. I won easy."

McCullough, 28, who fights out of Las Vegas, was a silver medalist in the 1992 Barcelona Olympics. He is 22-2, with the only other defeat a 12-round decision at the hands of Daniel Zaragoza in January 1997. "He ran from me," McCullough said. "He didn't come to me and never hurt me. He's strong—physically—but he never hurt me."

McCullough weighed in at 124 pounds, whilst Hamed was 125 pounds (the class limit is 126). Their similarities ended there, as Hamed made \$2 million from the fight, to McCullough's \$500,000.

Pan-Arab Games update

Date set for the Games

The Supervisory Committee of the 9th Pan Arab Games has decided upon the opening date for the games. The scheduled date for the opening ceremony has been set for 15 August, and the games are due to end on the 31 August.

Kick Boxing included in Pan Arab Games

Following recommendations from all the Arab participants in next years Pan Arab Games, Mr Sataan Al Hassan—the director of the 9th Pan Arab Games and Minister of Youth—has informed the Supervisory Committee that Kick Boxing is to be added to the list of competitions. Kick Boxing will take the number of competitions to 28. Jordan hosted the first Arab Kick Boxing Championship last month, which saw six Arab countries participating. The amphitheater was the chosen venue, and proved highly successful, as thousands of spectators coming to watch the bouts.

Athletics competition moved forward

On the demand of the Arab Sports Federation, the athletics competition in next years Pan Arab Games has been brought forward by two days. The decision was taken by the Supervisory Committee, so as not to clash with the World Athletics Championship which has been scheduled to open on the 20th August. The athletics competition will therefore commence on the start on the 13th August (two days before the opening ceremony), and will end on the 17th August.



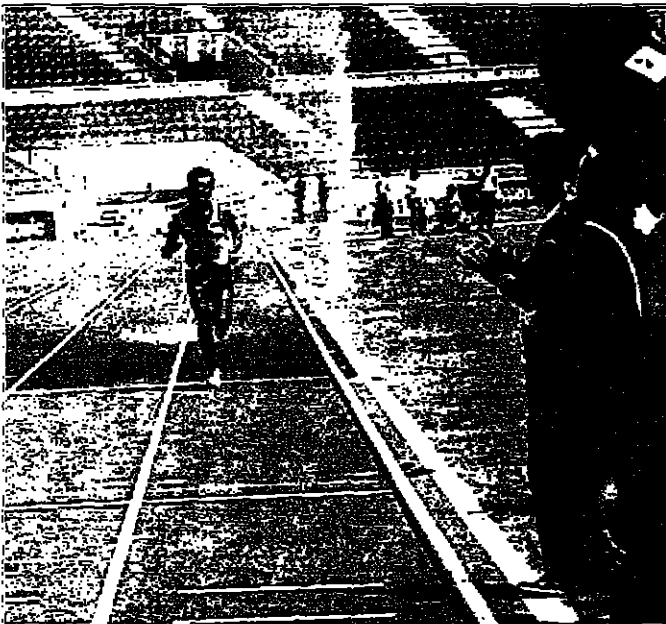
HRH Princess Alia bint Al Hussein

French coach appointed for Equestrian team

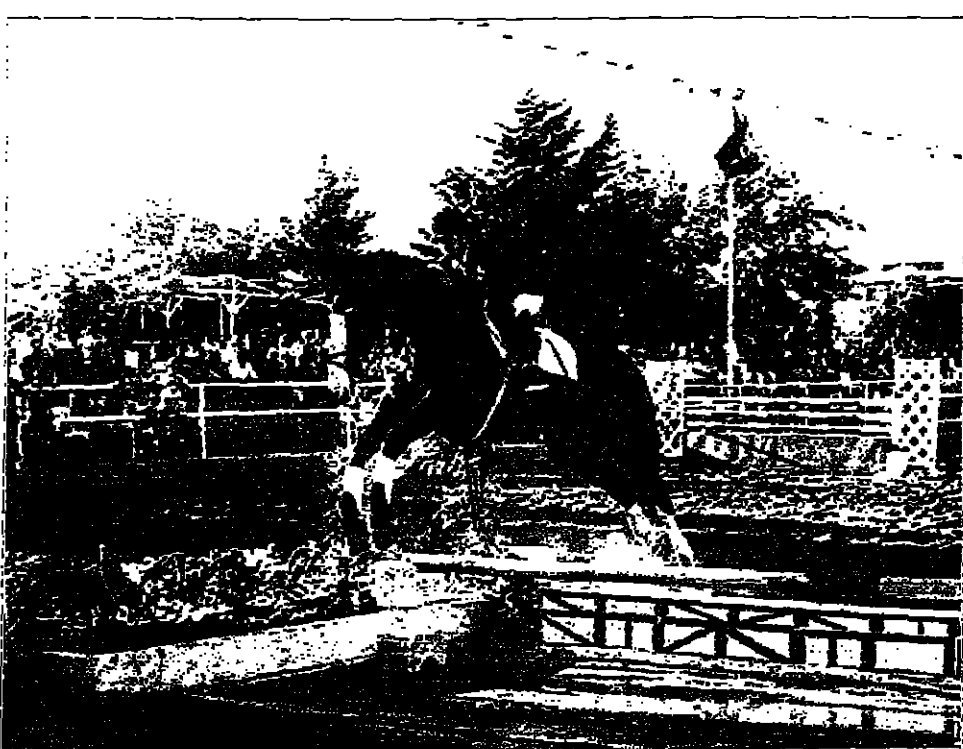
A French coach, specializing in the show-jumping side of the Equestrian sport, is expected to be appointed soon, to advise and oversee the Jordanian team. The new coach is expected to meet with HRH Princess Alia bint Al Hussein, who is the President of the Royal Jordanian Equestrian Federation, and to set a timetable of events to prepare the Jordanian team for the 9th Pan Arab Games.

Jordanian Basketball team heads to UAE

Jordan's Basketball team has been invited to participate in a friendly tournament, to be held in UAE next week. Teams from Lebanon, UAE, Syria and Egypt will also be participating, and has been organized to prepare the UAE team for the next Asian Games, due to be held in Thailand next December.



A Jordanian runner during the 8th Pan Arab Games in Beirut



Horse and rider in motion

Football Roundup

German 1st Division match reports

K. Frankfurt (1) Bayern Munich (0)
Leader Bayern suffered its first defeat of the season. Midfielder Thomas Sobotzik scored the only goal from close range in the 32nd minute, giving promoted Eintracht its second win since rejoining the top flight. Bayern was reduced to 10 men when striker Carsten Jancker was sent off for a second bookable offense in the 61st minute.

W. Bremen (1) MSV Duisburg (1)
Midfielder Joerg Neum scored from a free kick in the 24th minute to give Duisburg the lead. Yugoslav striker Rade Bogdanovich leveled for the home side in the 73rd minute.

VfB Stuttgart (4) VfL Bochum (2)
Nigerian striker Jonathan Akpoborie scored in the first minute to give Stuttgart the lead. Bochum midfielder Maurizio Gaudino leveled five minutes later. Stuttgart's South African midfielder Bradley Carnell put the home side up 2-1 in the 11th, and Akpoborie gave them a 2-1 lead early in the second half. Midfielder Thomas Reis restored some hope for Bochum with a goal in the 53rd minute, but midfielder Sreto Ristic sealed Stuttgart's victory three minutes from time.

1860 Munich (2) VfL Wolfsburg (3)
1860 Munich went 2-0 down after goals from Detlev Dammeier and Stefan Baumgart in the seventh and 47th minutes respectively. Striker Markus Schrott restored hope for the 'Lions' by reducing the arrears in the 84th minute. Two minutes later, Marijan Kovacevic put Wolfsburg 3-1 up from the penalty spot. With the issue already beyond doubt, striker Bernd Hothsch scored another goal for the home side in the dying moments.

B. M'gladbach (2) B.Leverkusen (8)
Germany striker Ulf Kirsten scored a hat-trick as Bayer demolished Borussia by a club record 8-2. Substitute Thomas Reichenberger scored twice for the visitors. Brazilian midfielder Ze Roberto, libero Jens Nowotny and Croatian midfielder Nico Kovac managed a goal each. Moenchengladbach's goals came through veteran Austrian striker Toni Polster and Brazilian striker Chiquinho.

Kaiserslautern (3) Hansa Rostock (2)
Champion Kaiserslautern fought back from two goals down to snatch its first win in five games. Croatian Igor Pamic and fellow striker Oliver Neuville gave Rostock a 2-0 interval lead. Olaf Marschall cut the lead with a 50th minute penalty and Michael Ballack equalized with a powerful shot from some 20 meters in the 67th minute. Defender Uwe Roesler scored the winner six minutes later.

Italian Serie A match reports

Juventus (2) Sampdoria (0)
Bari (3) Inter Milan (2)
AC Milan (1) Piacenza (1)
Salernitana (1) Lazio (0)



Daniel Ortega of Sampdoria shields the ball from Bernabelli of Juventus

Empoli (2) Perugia (0)
Vicenza (2) Cagliari (0)
Roma (4) Udinese (0)

Florentina (0)
Goalscorer Enrico Chiesa, three goals in his last three matches, turned goal-maker at the Tardini. First, the striker provided a pinpoint cross for Hernan Crespo to score with a diving header in the 36th minute. Then, in the 52nd, the same player laid on the pass from which Crespo added his second. At the other end, Parma's defense recovered from conceding its first goals of the season in last week's defeat at Perugia to restrict Fiorentina to their first blank sheet of the season.

Venezia (0) Bologna (2)
Venezia rarely looked like scoring its first goal of the season at the Penza stadium on Venice's Sant'Elena island. Only goalkeeper Massimo Taibi denied Bologna's Carlo Nervo and Klas Ingheson in the first-half, before in the 71st minute, Jonathan Binotto met a poor defensive clearance with a fine half-volley. In the dying seconds, Brazilian Eriberto dribbled the length of the pitch to deposit the ball in an empty net, after Taibi had gone up to the opposition penalty area for a free kick.

English Premier League results

Chelsea v. Aston Villa (postponed)
Coventry City (0) Arsenal (1)
Derby County (2) Leeds United (2)
Everton (1) Man. United (4)
Leicester City (1) Liverpool (0)
Newcastle Utd (0) West Ham Utd (3)
Sheffield Wed. (0) Southampton (0)
Wimbledon (1) Blackburn Rovers (1)
Middlesbrough (1) Nottingham F. (1)
Tottenham H. (2) Charlton Athletic (2)

French 1st Division results

Lorient (1) O. Marseille (3)
Monaco (3) Nantes (1)
Olympique Lyon (0) Le Havre (0)
Paris St Germain (2) AJ Auxerre (0)
RC Lens (2) Metz (0)
Strasbourg (3) G. Bordeaux (2)
Toulouse (0) Rennes (1)
Nancy (1) Bastia (2)

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'Listeners Choice'

Join Savana on her radio show

By Ghassan Joha
Star Staff Writer

TURN YOUR radio on at 11:05 on a Friday morning (the local FM Service), and you will hear a voice say, "Are you sitting comfortably?", so let's begin." This familiar saying is the signal that the two-hour 'Listeners Choice' show has begun.

The last three years has seen a dramatic increase in the program's ratings, and has made 'Listeners Choice' one of the most popular live radio programs on Radio Jordan, attracting listeners from all age groups.

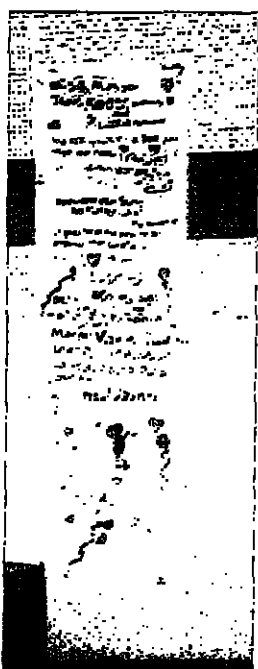
The program enthralls the spirit of teamwork. DJ Savana Bustami, and her sound man Mudar Momani, are the team in question. The Star visited them during a live broadcast on Radio Jordan, and joined in with the action right from the start.

At first glance the studio reminds you of the set for the film 'Broadcast News', but on closer inspection, you see that the star of the show is the effervescent, bandana wearing Savana Bustami.

The control room and Studio One are separated by a piece of transparent glass, which allows you to observe Momani working away feverishly on the vast array of technical equipment, clicking a button here and replacing a tape spool or CD there.

Sitting by a table covered with hundreds of letters and post cards, Savana suddenly becomes animated when she reads out the letters from Jordanian listeners and abroad.

The requests include poems, proverbs and opinions, sent in by what Savana says are "the friends of the show." The DJ says that many listeners continually send in letters and e-mails



A listener's letter (L), and Savana Bustami and Mudar Momani during a live broadcast

every week, so they can hear their dedications being broadcast live across the airwaves. At times, she also shares her opinions on the music business and life in general with all her enthusiasts.

Most people like her show because Savana acts as a kind of 'Agony Aunt' for the many lis-

teners. "I receive letters from people asking me to intervene on their behalf, to help them solve their problems, and sometimes to bang their heads together."

Savana says her personal approach has recently helped to bring two couples to marry. With a degree in English Literature from

Germany, Savana spent most of her early life in England, Lebanon and Abu Dhabi. The host, who has been working on the show for the last three years, devotes most of her time to music.

"I adore music," she says, "as it puts me in the right mood, and helps me to be in touch with people."

Her name arouses much interest. "I was given this name after a well-known Arab female poet, and it means a large pearl in the sea," she said.

Savana started working at Radio Jordan ten years ago. Her career began as a news reader, before becoming a morning show presenter. The popular DJ currently hosts another musical program every Thursday morning.

"The LC," as it is sometimes called, has a distinct flavor. "We try to make people happy and put them in a good mood. They send us their requests, and in turn we play their favorite songs," says Savana.

"I'm a sporty girl, and I like to play tennis, swim and jog," the energetic mother of two small children explains. Savana wouldn't tell us her true age. She cleverly says, "Age is nothing but a number. It's not important how old you are, but how much you understand life."

She told The Star that the busiest time she can remember was during the Tawjil results, when hundreds of listeners wanted dedications made to friends who passed their exams.

Suddenly, a blast of music grabs your attention and you look into the control room, to watch Momani, 25, work his magic spell—following in his late father's footsteps.

Savana ended the show by saying, "Hey you out there. Keep the letters coming in, and your wishes will come true. Cool is the rule." ■

Satellite warning

Are you ready to become a couch potato?

By Rasheed Al Roussan
Special to The Star

IT IS two o'clock in the morning, and you can barely open your eyes. You had a hectic day at work, and your whole body aches. You can't stop thinking of what is waiting for you tomorrow: the children, the house and the office.

All this is driving you crazy. Suddenly you get up from bed, heading towards the sitting room. There, a TV set and a satellite receiver awaits you. It is time to forget all worries and enter the magical world of the channels' zone. Time freezes as the remote changes from channel to channel, starting with the LBC, FUTURE, Dubai and so on.

Off course, one can't enjoy all this entertainment without having a night snack now and then. As the clock ticks four o'clock in the morning, you realize that you have only three hours left for a cup of coffee, driving the children to school, and going to work. The next day, you go through the same process again, along with hundreds of others who own a satellite dish like yourself.

Satellite dishes have invaded the Arab region in the early nineties, turning the whole world into a global city of entertainment and culture. The variety of programs is astonishing. Starting with news, films, video clips, best sellers' series and ending with live interviews with celebrities. You name it, I am sure you will find it!

One can't deny the infinite amount of information and fun people get from watching such channels. However, there is a price to pay.

The endless hours spent sitting on your favorite chair doing nothing but watching and eating can turn out to be a serious issue, especially when it leads to addiction. Back in the USA, the problem has already reached its peak, even before the existence of Satellite channels. There, people who spend hours in front of a TV set eating meals and snacks from every kind are called couch potatoes!

They just sit there and gain weight, isolated from the outside world just like potatoes growing under the earth's soil! Moreover, this phenomenon is becoming contagious. It is one of the tempting disadvan-

tages carried by the allure of space channels wherever they are found. Not to mention problems of sight, back aches and laziness. It is simply threatening everybody from different

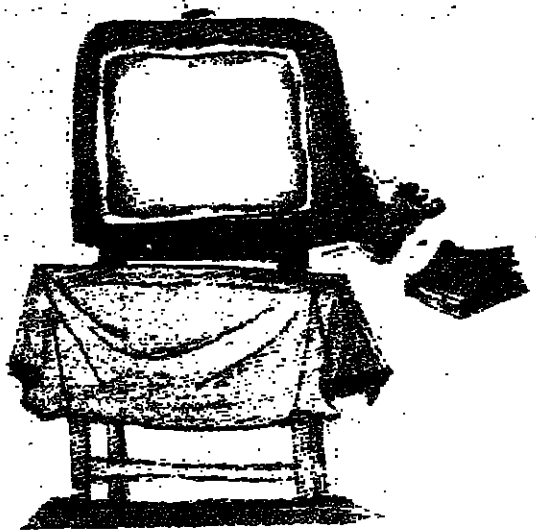
favorite TV series.

Furthermore, the transmission hours play a vital role in affecting our health. Although midnight programs can be fun, viewing them every day is a restless process, especially when your stomach is trying to digest the continuous snacks and drinks you eat each night.

This consumption of energy is getting nowhere. It only threatens our mental and physical well being.

It is an addiction that must be put under control. Self-surveillance and discipline can reduce the number of countless hours watching and eating. Satellite channels are there for us to enjoy, but there is a very thin line

between having fun, and becoming an idle couch potato. ■



ages. Ironically enough, a large number of viewers spend most of their time shifting from channel to channel, and they never make up their minds. They end up with a full stomach and with no idea about what they have watched!

The overweight problem is taking a new dimension. It is now related to the amount of hours you spend with your midnight friend, the satellite dish. The more you watch, the more you gain weight!

In addition to overweight, one transforms into a receiver himself, consuming time and effort for the sake of an useless program. Unfortunately, this may decrease one's productivity and social activities. Instead of a goodnight sleep or spending half an hour reading a valuable book, some prefer to stay at home and join the satellite shows.

There is no doubt that the infection is reaching our children. Hooked on the Cartoon Network, the MTV and the art children channels, youngsters are spending more than three hours a day in front of the TV screen. Some even do their homework while enjoying the quarrels of Tom & Jerry or Bugs bunny's adventures.

On the bright side, the satellite is becoming a new means of social gathering. Your friend may invite you to his place to watch a football match or a famous movie. Family programs are not an exception. You can find all members of the family in one room watching their most

Morissette's songs, new and old, are somewhat muddled

By J.D. Considine

SEEING A big star like Alanis Morissette playing a tiny club is a fan's dream come true. Seeing a big star like Alanis Morissette playing a tiny club when you don't know most of the songs is a little less than dreamy, and that was the situation facing some 500 fans recently at Washington's 9:30 Club.

Wearing a red satin dress under a sheer, black T-shirt with a scene from Chinese mythology embroidered across the chest, Morissette took the stage to tumultuous applause.

But as her band muscled through the dark, semi-industrial pulse of "Baba," the crowd's enthusiasm melted into a mixture of curiosity and confused excitement.

Sure, it was great to be there, but what the heck was she singing?

"Baba," like most of what Morissette performed, is from her unreleased new album, "Supposed Former Infatuation Junkie."

Of the evening's 18 tunes, only a third were culled from her 1995 debut, the multiplatinum "Jagged Little Pill."

Moreover, many of the oldies had been radically rearranged. In place of the original version's fury, "You Oughta Know" was stripped down to metronomic bass and atmospheric guitar noises,

while "Right Through You" turned into a full-band jam that had Morissette improvising new words and music.

So even though the capacity crowd was clearly happy to be there, it didn't go into a full frenzy until four songs into her set, when she picked up a harmonica and charged into her 1995 hit, "Hand In My Pocket."

All of which raises the question: Why would Morissette tease her fans with unknown new songs when she could have pleased them with hits? Maybe, because the mini-tour that brought her to Washington was intended not as a crowd-pleaser, but as a buzz-builder. In other words, the whole idea was to get people excited about Alanis again, so that when "Supposed Former Infatuation Junkie" turns up in stores this week, there will be long lines of fans waiting to grab copies.

The "Infatuation Junkie" songs found her wrestling with bad relationships and their emotional consequences. "Sympathetic Character," for instance, opened with a verse in which a former flame is told, "I have as much rage as you have/I have as much pain as you do," as the music slowly gathered momentum.

Then there was "Are You Still Mad," in which Morissette paged through the complaints

of a former lover as her

band churned, Led Zeppelin-like, behind her.

There may have been more, of course, but it was often hard to make out just what, exactly, Morissette was singing. Some of that muddle may have had to do with the sound system, which favored the guitars and Chris Chaney's booming, dub-style bass over the vocals.

The third song, "Would Not Come," was greeted by shouts of "Turn up the vocals!"—but Morissette herself was also partly to blame. "This is a song called (mumble-mumble) 'Hoping,'" she said, introducing "I Was Hoping." "It was inspired by (mumble-mumble-mumble)." Well, that explains the camping reference in the third verse, doesn't it? Still, the music came through even if the words didn't, and on that level, Morissette's new material was largely convincing.

In fact, there were moments—as during Nick Lashley's searing guitar solo at the end of "Uninvited"—when the music seemed almost too big for a room the size of the 9:30 Club.

In that sense, seeing a big star like Alanis Morissette playing a tiny club may be less satisfying than catching her at a coliseum. Ironical, don'tcha think?

LA Times-Washington

SCRAPBOOK
Paris revisitedBy Christian Dounitt
Special to the Star

I KNOW it's been said and sung many times before, but I love Paris. I have often gone crazy over London, New York, and Venice, but it's the "woman going to meet her lover" who finally gets me. What a beautiful woman too. Arriving in Paris after five months in the Magic Circle brings instant nostalgia. It's like going on your first date and falling in love. The first time I saw Paris (another cliché), I was on my way back to Beirut from boarding school in the UK. That was 1958, and so many things were happening everywhere.

With just one day in Paris, I decided I would first go to the Pere Lachaise cemetery, to meet all the celebrities I could not meet in real life. Pere Lachaise is the most prestigious cemetery in France. The land was originally owned by the confessor of Louis XIV. Everybody who is anybody is buried there, including Chopin, Sarah Bernhardt, Oscar Wilde, Gertrude Stein and many others. Since 1958, there has been many new arrivals, among them Jim Morrison, Edith Piaf, and Yves Montand. A Who's Who at Pere Lachaise can be downloaded on the Internet. Just type in Pere Lachaise cemetery and click on Who's Who.

Speaking of the Internet, France is lagging far behind other countries in facilities and usage. I have yet to find anything that comes close to Books@Cafe in Amman. President Jacques Chirac—according to a recent book—only got his e-mail address this year, and he has instructed his staff to answer by ordinary post. Rather than moving ahead in the age of the Internet, the French have remained with the Minutal—an expensive and limited piece technology, dating back to the early 1980s.

After a peaceful stroll, I asked the gate keeper on my way out what one should do to qualify for admission. "Monsieur, ze first zing yuzze has to do is die," came the reply. It was my first encounter with French humour, after almost a year in England.

Back to the City of Light, where I visited the usual places with my Brazilian in-laws just in from Sao Paulo. It was their first visit to Paris. We started off from Place des Vosges, on a bright morning and walked to Notre Dame Cathedral—a masterpiece of Gothic architecture. Notre Dame was ransacked during the French Revolution and transformed into the Temple of Reason, until Napoleon returned it to the Church in 1804. He was actually crowned there.

From there, we walked all along the Seine and ended up at Angelina's, at 226 rue de Rivoli. Angelina is perhaps the last great Saloons left in Paris—reputed for its hot chocolate, pastries and choucroute. A jewel from the Belle Epoque, with its gilded columns and mirrored walls, it was crammed with beautiful women.

Nothing ever changes in Paris, least of all the smells. The Parisians are tough, paranoid, unfriendly, but polite and civilised. Unlike other countries, France has never abandoned her love for true culture and intellect, in face of the onslaught from the English and Anglo-Saxon popular culture. It is difficult to divorce culture from language, and the English share their language with the United States whose culture is perceived by many French people as a threat to their own. Hence, the French obsession with the dangers of France and Europe being 'americanized' by the spread of the English language. France is going through difficult times, adjusting to a world where her political and cultural influence is waning.

Like the British in the 1970s, the French are innocent victims of organized labour strikes. Autumn has often been the season of strikes, and this year suburban train drivers paralysed most of France. A third of Paris buses did not run. In October, half a million school children throughout the country abandoned their studies and went on a massive demonstration.

After leaving Angelina, we ended up in Montmartre. To this day, Montmartre has remained the meeting point of artists, painters and poets. Nothing has changed much there, except that the good ones have died or left. There are many street painters and caricaturists who will offer to do your portrait for a fee.

The next day we visited Versailles. Visiting the Chateau can prove very expensive since one entrance ticket doesn't entitle you all the different rooms. The French and Germans may complain about having to pay JD20 to visit Petra, but the same applies in France as well. You can hardly go anywhere in France without having to pay an entrance fees.

I am now back on my farm in the Lot-Dordogne area—the Frenchman's paradise, the Magic Circle. Some call this the most beautiful and peaceful part of France, and who am I to argue. I am here for a much needed rest. Too many memories and too much nostalgia for one day. ■